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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

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Azeri, Armenian Premiers Assess Moscow Talks

LD0909162794 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] [Announcer] The two-day summit meeting between the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia ended in Moscow today. The talks took place behind closed doors in an atmosphere of total secrecy. The results of the meeting are still not known, even though the leaders have already left for home. According to information available in Moscow, the leaders of the two countries discussed a major political agreement; individual points of this have already been agreed and about half the questions have been dealt with.

Armenian Prime Minister Hrant Bagratyan gave this assessment of the meeting between Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Geydar Aliyev:

[Begin Bagratyan recording] I have the overall impression that this is definitely positive progress. Overall, it is a step forward. [end recording]

[Announcer] Speaking of the possible results, Azerbaijan's Prime Minister Surat Guseynov noted:

[Begin Guseynov recording] The matter should be resolved by peaceful means but I am unable to predict how things will develop. Therefore, time will tell. [end recording]

[Announcer] It is quite natural that today's meeting took place with Russian mediation. In a conversation with journalists, Andrey Kozyrev stressed:

[Begin Kozyrev recording] This is a major event in itself. A start has been made to the process of direct contacts between the presidents. I think that this is a breakthrough that they have begun talking to each other and seeking solutions. Moreover, the conversations are place in a frank and businesslike manner. We are trying to provide mediatory services. [end recording]

[Announcer] Andrey Kozyrev also said that an initiative exists for a trilateral Russian-Armenian-Azerbaijan summit meeting. He believes that such a meeting is necessary to resolve all the questions. But it is not yet known when it will take place. It is worth mentioning that President Geydar Aliyev's entourage also considers that another summit is necessity since the main issue has not yet been resolved—the liberation of the Azerbaijani towns of Shusha and Lachin. In the opinion of the Baku leadership, the resolution of the problem of the two towns is the key to resolving the conflict.

Chernomyrdin Views Proposed CIS Economic Body

LD0909161594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1348 GMT 9 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Taranov and Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Sep—The council of the heads of government of the CIS countries today agreed to set up an Interstate Economic Committee [IEC] [Mezhgosudarstvennyy Ekonomicheskiy Komitet—MEK] within the framework of a CIS economic union—the first body within the Commonwealth with distributive functions. Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said this at a news conference at the President Hotel. He stressed that a final decision on setting up the IEC would require the approval of the council of CIS heads of state, which is scheduled for the beginning of October this year. So far, the agreement to set up the IEC at government level has been signed by all those participating in the council with the exception of Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan, which will work on their positions before the meeting of the heads of state.

"The appearance of an IEC," the Russian prime minister emphasized, "will make it possible to work on the adoption of decisions within the CIS framework before they are carried out, which has not, by and large, been the case in the Commonwealth thus far. At the initial stage, the IEC's basic functions will be performed by the CIS coordinating and consultative committee. It is proposed to create an IEC presidium from the CIS governments operating in the coordinating and consultative committee and to create the collegium on a permanent basis. [no closing quotation marks as received]

It is proposed to locate the IEC headquarters in Moscow. Over 50 Commonwealth bodies operating today will be considerably reduced once the IEC has been created, so that the CIS structure does not give at the seams, Viktor Chernomyrdin observed. This will be done, basically, in order to save money. Important decisions will be taken in the IEC by consensus; the others by a majority of 80 percent of the votes, where Russia is allocated 50 of their total number.

Turning to the question of the creation at today's sitting of CIS heads of government of a payments union within the framework of the Commonwealth, Viktor Chernomyrdin said Russia will not in the immediate future choose to amalgamate its monetary system with that of the Republic of Belorussia [Belarus]. The republic will have to bring its economy up to Russia's level. Russia will also be cautious, Viktor Chernomyrdin said, in its approach to the question of removing customs barriers with Commonwealth countries. "We were not the first to introduce them here, but today the situation has changed too significantly. A great deal now goes not only from Russia, but also through Russia, for example, drugs and weapons," the Russian prime minister stressed.

Viktor Chernomyrdin said the discussion of the other items on the agenda of the council of heads of state session (there were more than 20 of them in all) was constructive, but not very easy. The only package of agreements giving rise to no objections was, he emphasized, the documents on the joint marking of the 50th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War. "That is important to all of us, not only to our veterans, but also to the younger generation," Viktor Chernomyrdin said.

Special Opinions Voiced on Economic Issues

LD0909131694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1240 GMT 9 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Taranov and Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow September 9 TASS—Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine expressed special opinion during the debating of two fundamental documents in the economic package of documents at a meeting of the Council of Heads of the Government of the Commonwealth of Indepedent States (CIS) on Friday. These are the agreements on setting up an Inter-State Economic Committee and a payments union in the framework of the CIS Economic Union.

Azerbaijan's Prime Minister Suret Guseynov told ITAR-TASS after the first stage of the discussion that he will not sign either of these agreements on Friday as the Azeri parliament is not yet ready to approve of the delegation of some supra-national functions of economic management to an Inter-State Economic Committee, the executive body of the Economic Union of the CIS, that is being formed.

Turmenistan's special stand consists in that Turkmenistan, while not rejecting the idea of an inter-state economic committee, asks for a month of deferment, until CIS heads of state meet in October, for additional debating of the matter in the republic. Nevertheless Turkmenistan's delegation is prepared to sign the agreement on forming a payments union today.

Ukraine's attitude is more complicated. Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol told ITAR-TASS that, in his opinion, a payments union should be formed gradually as it envisages free convertation [as received] of national currencies and their market quotation. It would be expedient to form a payments union through concluding bilateral agreements between the republics. "For free quotation of the Ukrainian coupon, Ukraine should have a stabilisation fund, a gold reserve in the amount it does not have at present," Masol said.

Ukraine's special stand on forming an Inter-State Economic Commitee is determined by its associated membership in the Economic Union, Igor Mityukov, Ukrainian deputy premier for the economy, told ITAR-TASS. He said Ukraine does not intend altering its status in the Economic Union. Mityukov said that if Ukraine signs the agreement on forming an Inter-State Ecnomic Committee it will keep associated membership also in that executive structure. It will participate in debating only whatever matters it deems necessary. "If the documents on the Inter-State Economic Commitee and the payments union are finally coordinated with taking into accont Ukrainian amendments on Friday, we shall be ready to sign them," the Ukrainian deputy premier said. The memorandum on the basic trends of integration of the CIS countries was initialled during the first part of the meeting. There have been no special objections. Foreign ministers of Commonwealth countries who held a separate meeting on this matter and defence ministers agreed upon all aspects of the document which is expected to be signed on Friday. Amendments and supplements to the document that have not been submitted to it within a month will be agreed upon and attached to the signed text of the document as supplements.

Kiev Against CIS Common 'Strategic Space'

LD0909161294 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow, 9 Sep—As a UNIAR correspondent reported, Russia's Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, while opening a regular session of the Council of Heads of Government of CIS Countries, first and foremost, reminded that "the European Economic Community has been taking shape for 35 years. We do not have this time, therefore, there should be a different pace," he pointed out.

One of the main issues considered in Moscow is the issue on setting up an Interstate Economic Committee (MEK). This is a structure with suprastate functions, although, according to Mr. Chernomyrdin, countries should themselves determine exactly which issues will be within the competence of the MEK.

On the part of Ukraine's delegation, certain reservations were made concerning the system of voting within the framework of the MEK. Depending on the importance of the issue, the authors of the draft proposed four systems of voting. To adopt a decision on the most important issues 80-85 percent of votes at the MEK will be required, other issues are to be resolved through a consensus. Ukraine will have 14 percent of votes, Russia—50 percent. In the opinion of some Ukrainian experts, Ukraine can refuse to join this or that proposal by the leadership of the MEK, if it wishes to do so. Others believe that the mechanism of defending [Ukraine's] own interests is not clear enough.

This is why the Ukrainian delegation agrees to signing the agreement on setting up the Interstate Economic Committee with the following reservation: The term of the validity of the proposed mechanism of voting should be limited by the end of 1996.

The Ukrainian delegation refused to sign in any form the agreement "On the payments union" because no system of payments is available as yet in the countries—members of the MEK, it believes.

Among the issues considered at the meeting there were issues of military and technical cooperation. The Ukrainian delegation came out against the formation of a single strategic space and spoke out for establishing bilateral relations. As Colonel General Ivan Bizhan pointed out in his speech at the meeting, "we believe that

Ukraine's state borders have already been outlined and there is no need to raise the question on common CIS borders."

The participants in the meeting discussed over 20 issues on the agenda of the session of the heads of government of the CIS member states.

Council of Heads of Government Meeting Ends

LD0909130394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1208 GMT 9 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Gennadiy Yezhov and Vladimir Taranov]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Sep—The meeting of the Council of CIS Heads of Government ended today. At the session, 20 basic issues and 10 additional ones were examined . All of them were resolved positively. All the delegations approved a range of questions related to the 50th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War. A draft agreement on the establishment of an interstate economic committee was supported by all participants in the meeting, with the exception of Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan. The delegation from Azerbaijan also abstained during the discussion of questions relating to mutual convertibility of CIS currencies and the establishment of a CIS payments union. The next meeting of the council will be on 9 October in one of the CIS capitals.

CIS Countries Intensify Foreign Trade Volumes

LD1109170794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1450 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] The CIS foreign-trade turnover in January-July 1994 constituted $49 billion as against $41 billion in January-June, Interfax was told by a spokesman for the CIS Statistical Committee.

The CIS total export volume according to the results of seven months constitutes $30 billion, which by 10% exceeds the indices for the similar period of 1993.

Raw goods still constituted the basic part of the CIS export for the period January-July, the spokesman said. For example, in Belarus 36% of export volume fell on crude oil and oil products, mineral and chemical fertilisers; in Kazakhstan 15% of export were crude oil and 49% ferrous and non-ferrous metals. In Russia 20% of exports fell on crude oil and 18%—natural gas.

In Armenia's export 86% were raw diamonds, wastes of non-ferrous metals. Cotton fiber prevailed in exports from Central Asian countries, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Import rates in the CIS countries, the spokesman said, continued to grow. By the results of the seven months, the import volume to the CIS countries constituted $19 billion, increasing, as compared to the similar period of last year by 8%. Kazakhstan and Russia increased goods imports, by 25% and 6% respectively.

Over the period from January to July the main share of imports fell on equipment, for example, in Belarus—35%, Kazakhstan—54.6%, Russia —30.3%, Uzbekistan—24.2%. Besides, consumer goods and foodstuffs constituted a considerable part of import in the CIS countries over the period.

Duma Committee Chairman Warns of Crimea Trouble

LD1209084894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0625 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Mikhail Kolesnikov]

[Text] Aspen, State of Colorado, 12 Sep—"Despite all warnings, the authorities of the Crimea have embarked upon the path of confrontation with each other," Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the State Duma committee for CIS affairs and ties with compatriots, who is taking part in a Russian-American forum within the framework of the 'Aspen Dialogue,' told an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

"Local authorities, power structures and leaders of Ukraine are being drawn into conflict as into a vortex," the parliamentarian noted. "What has happened cannot but concern all those who care about the present and the future of the Republic of Crimea. Since the time of Kiev Rus our people was always humbled when it became prey to princely internecine strife," K. Zatulin stressed.

"I call upon the conflicting authorities of Crimea to take the only sensible decision and upon each of them to take a step back from clashing: to resume the work of the Supreme Council of Crimea and to give firm guarantees to executive power, having included the law "on the president" in the republic's constitution," K. Zatulin stressed.

"Russia knows well from its own bitter experience of confrontation between authorities that in politics people go too far only when they don't know where they're going. It is all too obvious that the next victim of victory in the internal struggle in Crimea will be the victor himself and the statehood of the Crimea," he said.

Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion Agreement Signed

LD1109174994 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Today in Copenhagen, the defense ministers of Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Great Britain signed one of the documents on cooperation in the process of setting up a Baltic peacekeeping battalion—a memorandum of mutual understanding. The memorandum stipulates what assistance the Nordic states and Britain will render in setting up the Baltic battalion, its technical provision, and training of personnel. This will be the biggest program of military cooperation with western countries in the whole history of the Latvian state.

It is envisaged that the western countries will render assistance in setting up the Baltic battalion to the amount of approximately 40 million U.S. dollars. The headquarters of the Baltic battalion will be situated in Latvia.

Last week, the Swedish Government announced that British and Nordic experts will be training officers of the three Baltic states at a former Russian military base at Adazi, in Latvia. The battalion has to be ready to participate in UN operations in November next year and each Baltic state will send one company to serve in the battalion.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 10 Sep

LD1009063794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0618 GMT 10 Sep 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow September 10 TASS—Newspapers highlight today the developments at a regular meeting of the CIS council of heads of government. ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA regards as the most important of documents, adopted by the meeting, the agreement on the creation of the interstate economic committee of the economic alliance. "For the first time in the history of the community an institution with control, management and executive functions has been created. Actually it will be the first element of the supranational structure, capable of making decisions on some problems, which will be mandatory for the CIS member states," the newspaper writes. NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA emphasises the fact that the document on the creation of the interstate economic committee was signed by all participants in the meeting with the exception of representatives of Azerbaijan and Turkmenia [Turkmenistan]. "We are creating an economic alliance. We shall celebrate together the 50th anniversary of the victory in the Second World War. This is the meaning of the decisions taken by the CIS council of heads of government," ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI stresses.

The press continues to give wide coverage to the situation in Chechnya. "The Kremlin is of the opinion that it is impossible already to stop the war in Chechnya and is getting prepared to localise the conflict," IZVESTIYA writes in this connection. It points out that a closed meeting of the expert-analytical council was held under the chairmanship of chief of staff of the president's administration Sergey Filatov. Emil Payin, head of the working group on the nationalities policy at the presidential council, made a report at the meeting, in which he stressed that the localisation of the conflct was Moscow's main task. For this reason measures were outlined to tighten the blockade of Chechnya and to prevent the penetration of its territory by armed groups from the republics in that area, which are bordering on Chechnya. "Russia's approaches to the Dudayev regime, which ranged from persuasion to ignoring, can hardly be described as consistent. The urgent task for today is to outline a clear and coherent policy," KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes. In the opinion of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, "the top military of the Provisional Council are probably ready for a final and decisive battle against Dudayev, seeking to snatch the offensive initiative from him."

IZVESTIYA publishes an article dealing with the meeting of the Azeri and Armenian presidents in Moscow. The newspaper calls attention to the intention of the West to put Russia's actions, aimed at promoting the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, under international control. "In this case Russia, which is bearing the brunt of the settlement, both from the military and financial point of view, will be directly subordinated to CSCE and will follow its instructions. They have the common principal goal: to put an end to the war and to restore peace. However, it would be naive to think that, when working for that goal, participants in the process, including mediators, will forget about their own strategic interests," the newspaper writes.

"The 132-km-long section of the Azeri-Iranian border, controlled by armed units of Nagorno-Karabakh, is a source of most serious concern among all sections of the CIS outside borders," KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes. It carries an article about the defence of the Transcaucasian part of the border of the community of independent states.

"The state is losing ground to economic crime," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA writes. "The incumbent Russian leadership has failed to create a system of ensuring economic security of the state," Sergey Aksyonov, director of the Financial Security Agency, said in an interview with the newspaper. "Powerful forces have been formed in Russia, which are not interested in putting in order the national economy. They are hampering the work of law enforcement agencies, protecting their selfish interests," Viktor Ageyev, a staff member of the main department for the struggle against economic crime at the Russian Interior Ministry, stressed in an interview with the same newspaper.

PRAVDA frontpages today a letter of one of its readers from St. Petersburg, who points to the need for the unification of all opposition forces for the sake of winning the forthcoming presidential elections. He believes that "the opposition should discuss and nominate a single candidate, should start working for it right now, should show to the people the candidate himself and his team, stressing their honesty, adherence to principles, uncorruptability and devotion to the nation and Russia, as well as their real programme of developing the national economy and reviving all spheres of life, including the spiritual life, culture, defence, science etc."

Representatives of branch trade unions, integrated in the Russian Federation of Independent Trade Unions, held a conference in St. Petersburg, at which they decided to hold an all-Russian protest action on October 27, RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA writes. "It is important to achieve real partnership, to make others respect lawful rights and opinion of trade unions," Mikhail Shmakov, chairman of the federation, said at the conference. He stressed the need for "opposing resolutely the attempts of the authorities and business circles to use partnership with trade unions as a convenient screen for avoiding the solution of burning social and economic problems."

U.S. Official Visits To Plan Yeltsin-Clinton Summit

MM0909141194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 3

[Report by Gennadiy Charodeyev: "Yeltsin and Clinton Will Not Cause Trouble for One Another. Second Man at U.S. State Department Discusses Details of Upcoming Summit in Moscow"]

[Text] "The next summit meeting will present no unpleasant surprises," officials from the entourage of Strobe Talbott, U.S. deputy secretary of state, said before leaving Washington. The number two at the State Department, the man in charge of Russian policy, has come to Moscow to coordinate the details of Boris Yeltsin's upcoming visit to Washington at the end of September.

Sources at the Russian Foreign Ministry and the U.S. Embassy in Moscow preferred not to reveal all the intended items on the agenda and merely confirmed that Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton will touch on at least two dozen questions from the sphere of international security, trade, finance, and military policy during their conversations and discussions, including "one-on-one."

It is becoming clear that the leaders of the two superpowers still have considerable differences of opinion, in particular as regards a settlement in Bosnia. It is the Bosnian question that will be among the top priorities during the U.S. and Russian presidents' discussions. They have not as yet found a common language as regards the role that Serbia has played of late in trying to stop the bloodshed in the former Yugoslavia.

Moscow still opposes the White House proposal to lift the embargo on arms shipments to the Bosnian Government, in which, as you know, Muslims predominate. A Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said in an interview with IZVESTIYA: "We believe the lifting of the embargo to be an extreme, last step. This may have undesirable consequences."

In turn the United States says that it will examine the possibility of easing off sanctions against Serbia if President Milosevic agrees to accommodate a group of international observers, who could confirm that arms shipments to the Bosnian Serbs have been suspended. "If Milosevic is able to persuade the world of this, the United States will not be able to win international support so easily for its proposals to give arms to the Muslims," an official White House spokesman said.

Shumeyko Meets Strobe Talbott

LD0909163994 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Report over video by correspondent Vlada Vishnevskaya; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Strobe Talbott, U.S. first deputy secretary of state, arrived in Moscow today. [video shows Talbott meeting Shumeyko and speaking to journalists]

[Vishnevskaya] Strobe Talbott is in charge of questions connected with mutual relations between Russia and the USA and, therefore, has a good knowledge of the Russian language. The first and only Russian official whom Talbott met was Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council, with whom the deputy secretary of state has established good personal relations.

In his conversation with Vladimir Shumeyko, Strobe Talbott touched upon the recent visit that the Federation Council speaker made to the USA, and said that this visit was important for the development of interstate and interparliamentry links between the two countries.

The main aim of the visit to Russia by the U.S. deputy secretary of state is connected with preparing for the visit by the Russian President to the United States.

Since Boris Yeltsin will meet U.S. legislators, Strobe Talbott was interested in learning the opinions of the Russian legislative authorities about bilateral relations.

Foreign Ministry Announces Joint U.S. Exercises

LD0909135294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1420 GMT 8 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Yuriy Kozlov and Andrey Serov]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Sep—Russian and American servicemen will meet for peacekeeping exercises in the autumn of next year in the United States. Grigoriy Karasin, director of the information and press department of the Russian Foreign Ministry, reported today that the relevant accord has been reached between the two countries. According to him, approximately 500 servicemen from each side will take part in the routine exercises; this is more than in the first joint exercises that ended at the Totsk training ground on Wednesday [7 September].

Summing up the results of the Peacekeeper-94 exercises, the representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry noted that they were only for "the purpose of observation." Their main aims were to determine mutually acceptable approaches of the commanders and staff to the planning of troop actions, master the practical aspects of troop administration, and work out unified views on the tactics of action by subunits. Military experts have studied the issue of the compatibility of the organizational structures and equipment for carrying out joint peacekeeping operations.

The Russian Foreign Ministry believes that, besides the practical value, the exercises at the Totsk training ground "boosted the spirit of cooperation among the servicemen of the two countries which is regarded as being of no small importance in carrying out possible peacekeeping operations in the future under the aegis of the United Nations in various 'hot spots' on the planet."

Grachev on Views of NATO, International Security

LD1009013794 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1830 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] [Studio announcer] This week has been one of foreign policy activity by the Russian Defense Ministry. Indeed, it is a sign of the times that Russia is defining its new military-political role in the world. Joint U.S.-Russian command and control exercises lasting several days and called Peacemaker-94 were held at the Totskoye range near Orenburg. As is known, they were highly praised by Pavel Grachev. Meanwhile, Field Marshal Sir Richard Vincent, chairman of NATO's military committee, was at a meeting with the Russian military in Moscow.

The Russian defense minister then flew out to Denmark at the end of the week to pursue military contacts arising from NATO's Partnership for Peace program.

But do Russia's military leaders have an unconcerned view of the new relationship with NATO? Do they see any underwater obstacles to Russian security? Here is what Defense Minister Pavel Grachev says.

[Begin Grachev recording] Russia is carefully monitoring the North Atlantic Alliance's tendency towards expansion and its transformation into an international military-political instrument with wide-ranging rights to intervene in political processes taking place in Europe. It is our conviction that further reinforcement of NATO, which in the cold war days was one of two opposing blocs, is not needed now and could only have an adverse impact on the development of Europe's political climate.

Also, we cannot fail to notice that NATO and a number of its member states have not definitively excluded Russia from the list of potential enemies.

We are also concerned that some states in central and eastern Europe and the Baltics, having declared their desire to join the alliance, are resorting to unfounded anti-Russian arguments in support of their case.

Russia is a state that is adhering to a new democratic orientation and has every right to ensure a level of security befitting its national interests. We take a dim view of any attempt to set us against the European community. [end recording]

[Announcer] The stubborn reluctance of NATO and the United States to see Russia exercise its sovereign right to ensure reliable border security does not square with the concepts of partnership and mutual understanding. The fact is that when the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty was signed in Paris in 1990, the Soviet Union was still one state and its weapons quotas were quite sufficient. But following its collapse in 1991, the Soviet Union, as we know, disintegrated into independent states that took over part of the military equipment and weaponry. Arms cutback thresholds were further reduced, and in the view of the Russian General Staff, became insufficient for reliable security against the outside world. These are the specific figures as given by Army General Pavel Grachev.

[Begin Grachev recording] We need to have in our security zone, in the Leningrad Military District, and the North Caucasus Military District, regular troops with 1,100 battlefield tanks, 3,000 armored combat vehicles, and 2,100 artillery systems. While complying with the overall levels set for Russia, we can plan for an extra 400 tanks, 2,420 armored combat vehicles, and 820 units of artillery. We are particularly concerned at the situation in the south of the country, where our regular troops need 600 tanks, 2,200 armored combat vehicles, and 1,000 artillery systems.

Our proposals on this issue will not harm the security of any state signatory to the treaty.

To deal with possibly adverse consequences of resolving this issue, Russia would be willing to discuss additional political guarantees that would alleviate other states' concerns. [end recording]

[Announcer] So, the Paris treaty on conventional forces reductions in Europe can no longer meet Russia's defense requirements. How to escape from this situation? The Russian Defense Ministry believes that a new international security system has to be built. NATO should not be at the head of this system, as it is now despite the end of the cold war. In addition, NATO by its very existence is simply fuelling anti-Russian sentiments. The focal point should be an international authority, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, or the CSCE, which was formed when radically new ways of military cooperation were being sought.

[Begin Grachev recording] We advocate an entirely new system of security on the continent. In our opinion, the best way to establish it would be to transform the CSCE into a regional political organization. This would ensure effective coordination of NATO, EU, and CIS efforts aimed at upholding security, stability, peacekeeping, and human rights. The Helsinki process could be complemented by a system of bilateral agreements spanning all of Europe, on mutual security and cooperation, thus becoming a kind of Euro-Atlantic general military-political cooperation pact.

One cannot speak today of European security without taking account of NATO's role. In our opinion, now that confrontation between the blocs is over, and in the light of the positive processes taking place in Europe, NATO should change its functions. In this respect, cooperation should be aimed at creating and strengthening fundamentally new models of European security, based on equal rights and responsibilities among states whose interests extend all the way from Vancouver to Vladivostok. [end recording]

[Announcer] That is how the Russian defense minister sees a new military-political structure for Europe following the complete withdrawal of Russian troops from central Europe.

Not Yet Time for Military Link With West

MM0909114594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Sep 94 p 4

[Article by Stanislav Kondrashov: "Diplomacy Is Like Gardening. Each Vegetable Has Its Own Season"]

[Text] Pavel Grachev had to inspect the Russian-American command headquarters exercises at Totsk alone, since on Monday his proposed companion, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, canceled his visit to Russia which was due to begin on Wednesday.

When a visit is canceled in this way, it means one of two things: Either a more important matter made it necessary to ignore the proprieties and the partner's hurt feelings, or a different view unexpectedly emerged and the visit now looked more counterproductive than beneficial. But Perry did fly from America to Europe this week to attend the Berlin farewell ceremony for U.S., British, and French soldiers, which took place after and was separate from the Russian send-off.

In canceling the visit the Pentagon cited the situation involving Haiti and Cuba, which demands that the secretary is in Washington as much as possible. An unconvincing reason, since reports suggest that the invasion of Haiti will not take place before the end of September, while there is no end in sight to the affair of the new wave of Cuban emigration to the United States and there is no need for extreme haste, particularly as far as the defense secretary is concerned.

It appears there was another reason why Perry did not accompany Grachev. The "Peacemaker-94" scenario, whereby Russian and U.S. soldiers act under UN auspices to quell a civil conflict in an imaginary "Atlantis," is divorced from real life and from immediate concerns. In Haiti, which has become Washington's main military headache, this new kind of cooperation is no good to the Americans, while in Chechnya, where civil war has broken out, it is no good to the Russians. Even in former Yugoslavia, that European "Atlantis," which is refusing to sink to the seabed of history, "Peacemaker-94" will clearly not be required in 1994. There are no "blue helmets" from America there, while Russia is threatening to withdraw its troops if the embargo on weapons supplies to the Bosnian Muslims is lifted.

Joint peacemaking operations by Americans and Russians are necessary and desirable in theory. In reality today the Americans see no place for them in "their," Western Hemisphere, and Moscow sees no place for them on the territory of the former Soviet Union. Try to impose "Peacemaker-94" not only on Chechnya, but also on Abkhazia or Nagorno-Karabakh. You would lose more than you would gain. There would be stronger emotions than there were in the case of the Totskoye test site. The heavy political symbolism would inevitably come to the fore and cancel out any possible real impact of an excitingly innovative joint operation.

Is that not why William Perry, who during his first visit to Russia propounded the thesis of "pragmatic partnership," excluded Totskoye from the itinerary of his current European tour, but still attended the farewell ceremony for the Americans leaving Germany for America?

Pavel Grachev criticizes Gorbachev and Shevardnadze for making a "big political mistake"—the arbitrarily short, four-year period for the withdrawal of the massive military grouping from Germany. But he will not acknowledge his own mistake, his own symbolic slip: On the same historic day, 31 August, when the last Russian soldiers left Germany, Latvia, and Estonia, the first U.S. soldiers arrived in Russia. Perry had the sense to see that in a country with such a strong memory of war, with such a sense of wounded patriotism, it was an extremely inappropriate time to rub salt into the wound.

To be strong, a partnership must indeed be pragmatic, that is, take into account the spirit of the times, place, and circumstances, and, having set the correct strategic goal, select appropriate tactical means of attaining it.

Even under glass any vegetable takes time to ripen. And you would not describe the open ground of the postconfrontation world as hothouse conditions.

State Duma deputy and former finance minister Boris Fedorov, a freelance who writes regularly for IZVESTIYA, clearly defined the main burden of the commentary published on Tuesday: "Russia must join NATO." It must, indeed is obliged to "make an official application as soon as possible." Why? "Then we will immediately find out the true attitude to Russia," the writer stressed, "on the part of our numerous partners in the G-7 and in West and East Europe." "Ceremonial meetings, receptions, and a mutual inclination, say, are one thing," he continued, "while a direct reply from Bill or Helmut is quite another...."

I agree—who would not agree?—with Boris Fedorov's general premise on the need to create in the new era a new system of collective security in Europe, which would incorporate the new Russia, giving further impetus to its development along democratic lines and preventing Western fears of a renewed threat on its part from growing. Although I do not think that the expansion of NATO, an organization set up for a different purpose at a different time, is the sole option—a kind of past option shaping the future.

But it was not so much the arguments as the pace proposed by the author that perplexed me. An immediate application to join NATO in order to find out its, NATO's "true opinion of Russia" is a foreign policy version of "shock therapy." We deliberately provoke them into saying an immediate "yes" or "no." But, in the first place, they will parry (and rightly so) such an ultimatum, and, second, their "yes" or "no" in the context we are talking about would mean a "true attitude" not so much to Russia as to their own interests, which are not confined to Russia, and toward their own "domestic" public opinion.

There is no doubt that Western public opinion would not accept diplomatic "shock therapy" and would only come to believe more firmly that these crazy Russians are capable of anything. It will support those rational statesmen who are perfectly well aware that to admit today's chaotic Russia to NATO would be to assume the kind of burden under which the military-political bloc, which has gone through a great deal in its time, gone through it and survived, would finally collapse.

What would Russia get then from having ascertained the "true attitude to Russia"? A belated appreciation of an obvious fact: Diplomacy is like gardening: Each vegetable has its own season.

Foreign Ministry Official on East Europe Joining NATO

LD0909221094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1838 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] The strive of several political leaders from the Eastern Europe to join NATO as soon as possible represents "a relapse of the alliance thinking" when state officials and even the whole states do not imagine any new system of relations in Europe without any alliances and groupings," believes a top-ranking official of the Russian Foreign Ministry. Commenting on the appeal of the Polish Defense Minister Piotr Kolodziejczyk to create Club of NATO's Active Partners from the Eastern European countries, he underlined that "unfortunately many people view belonging to any closed block as a panacea from the majority of political, social, economic, and financial problems."

To this effect the diplomat reminded the words of the Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev who said that "one should not take a member card to NATO for a credit card." Such moods are very widely spread, however, nobody intends to open a gold tap and to pour the Eastern European countries with subsidies and credits after their joining NATO." [quotation marks as received]

Kozyrev, Ukraine's Udovenko Set To Normalize Relations

LD0909164794 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow, 9 Sep—Hennadiy Udovenko, acting foreign affairs minister of Ukraine, who took part in the conference of heads of government of the CIS countries as a member of Ukraine's delegation, met the Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

The sides expressed mutual desire to normalize Ukrainian-Russian relations, remove artificial obstacles that existed recently, and develop these relations on the principles of equality and mutual advantage.

The acting head of Ukraine's foreign political department stressed that the earliest possible finalizing and signing of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, and also complementing it with a package of bilateral agreements in the economic, scientific, technical, and humanitarian spheres, will be evidence of this.

Kozyrev Urges Decision on 'Key Issues'

LD0909122494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1158 GMT 9 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Serov]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Sep—Russia expects the Ukrainian side to define its position on key aspects of the friendship, cooperation, and partnership treaty, which the two countries are currently working on. Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said this today to correspondents during a break in the meeting of the CIS Council of Heads of Government, which is taking place in the Russian capital. A treaty is only a good one, he noted, when it is geared to specific objectives. "As soon as the Ukrainian side makes up its mind on key issues, our talks will move along differently," the Russian foreign minister said.

According to Andrey Kozyrev, the Russian president's visit to Kiev, which is scheduled for this fall, will mark the culmination of decision-making on questions involved in the friendship, cooperation, and partnership treaty, and on the problem of the Black Sea Fleet, and a number of economic problems.

Dubinin Calls Talks 'Constructive'

LD0909211794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2000 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Another round of the Russian-Ukrainian negotiations has ended at a Russian Foreign Ministry's sanatorium in Moscow Oblast. The Ostankino TV and Radio Company has received the exclusive right to cover the last day of the work of the two delegations.

[Unidentified correspondent] The main aim of the talks was to prepare a draft of a large-scale treaty on friendship, cooperation, and partnership between Russia and Ukraine. The document will be probably signed in October during the Russian president's visit to Kiev. According to Yuriy Dubinin, head of the Russian delegation, the talks passed off in a constructive and frank atmosphere.

[Begin unidentified official recording] The word—frank—in diplomatic language means we have not agreed on everything, but at the same time we have been negotiating with complete openness in an effort to define the positions of the two sides and to find some solutions. [end recording]

[Correspondent] The draft treaty needs more preparation, but the talks have already confirmed there are no problems of a principle nature between the two states that would act as insurmountable obstacles to finding solutions to them.

Spokesman Says Crimea Crisis Ukraine 'Internal Affair'

LD1209112394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow views the dispute between the branches of power in the Crimea to be an internal affair of Ukraine, a senior Russian Foreign Ministry official told INTERFAX on Monday.

Russia's stand on the issue is unchanged, he said. In relations with Ukraine we stick to the principles of non-interference into the internal affairs of another country, respect for its sovereignty and the free will of the Crimean population.

The people of the Crimea who elected the president and parliament, have the right to decide their future themselves, said the diplomat.

Defense Minister Grachev Meets Danish Premier

LD0909182294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1747 GMT 9 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Nikolay Vukolov]

[Text] Copenhagen September 9 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, currently in Denmark on an official visit, met today Danish Prime Minister Poul Nyrup Rasmussen to inform the latter of the Russian political and economic situation.

Grachev thanked Denmark for assistance to the Russian economic reforms and accommodation of Russian servicemen withdrawn from the Baltics.

In his turn, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen asked Grachev to convey his greetings to President Yeltsin and Prime Minister Chernomyrdin and expressed the hope he will come to Russia on an official visit in the near future if he is a success in the upcoming parliamentary relations in Denmark.

Rasmussen stressed the importance of the Danish visit of the Russian minister for the development of bilateral relations and consolidation of security and stability in the Baltic region and throughout the European continent.

Today the Russian minister met Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen to discuss bilateral relations boosted by an agreement on military cooperation signed by Grachev and the Danish defence minister during the current visit. The sides discussed the attitude to NATO and cooperation within the framework of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council and the Partnership for Peace program, as well as security in Europe and participation of the two states in peace-making operations.

The minister also visited the Glenten multi-purpose ship of the Danish Navy and held negotiations with Commander-in-Chief of the Danish Armed Forces General Jorgen Lyng.

Comments on Cooperation Agreement

LD1109151894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1257 GMT 11 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Nikolay Vukolov]

[Text] Copenhagen September 11 TASS—"The agreement on cooperation in the military sphere between the Russian and Danish Defence Ministries is an important move to develop bilateral relations and contribute to strengthening of security and stability in the north of Europe and all over the European continent," Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev told ITAR-TASS at a meeting with Dannish and Russian journalists on Saturday [11 September] after his official visit to Denmark.

"We shall also work on such agreements with other Baltic states so as to make the Baltic region a zone of peace based on trust in one another," he added.

Speaking of the "Partnership for Peace" programme, the minister noted that this document, in the interpretation of the North Atlantic Alliance, defines only general approaches to discussion and the question of cooperation.

"We suggest a programme of practical actions in several areas, lacking in the NATO programme. For instance, joint solution of problems of non-proliferation of mass destruction weapons and means of their delivery.

"We also offer confidence-building measures in the military spheres and openness in defence activities, exchange of opinions on the content of military doctrines, conceptual principles of building armed forces, formation of military budgets and cooperation in defence planning.

"The implementation of these specific measures of cooperation will really contribute to ensuring security in Europe and all over the world."

Replying to Danish reporters, Grachev again specified that Russia negatively appraises a possible appearance of new NATO member states, and it is Russia's right to make such appraisals.

But he said at the same time that any state has the right to decide whether to join NATO or not. "Therefore, we do not intend to interfere in home affairs of either Estonia or Latvia or still Lithuania. They should decide on their own how to carry out their future development."

Turning to progress in military reform in Russia, Grachev noted that the ministry fulfils the main points of the plan approved by President Boris Yeltsin, which directly influence the state of combat and mobilisation preparedness of Russian Armed Forces.

"I'd like to stress that we succeed in maintaining combat and mobilisation preparedness of the army in an appropriate state even under the difficult economic conditions. The level of preparedness of our armed forces now enables us to fulfill the main task of ensuring security of the state from an outside attack, no matter wherefrom it will be made."

Grachev repeated that he is critical of some decisions and obligations, taken in the past, concerning the withdrawal of Russian troops, especially from East European countries and Germany.

"We see here not so much a technical but, above all, political mistake of the former Soviet leadership whose policy was aimed at flirting with other states, especially with Germany and the United States, NATO member countries. This policy was aimed at showing ourselves as peace-makers."

The former leadership did not take into account the human factor against the background of political populism, the minister underlined. "I do not believe that the political prestige of the former Soviet Union increased in connection with this decision.

"There were technical difficulties too," he added. Russia had to pull out 500,000 troops from Germany alone in a short period of time: History has not witnessed such an example in the past. This was extremely difficult, and consequences of this pull-out will be felt in Russia in the next years.

Russia is a superpower, and it has the right to map out its own way of development, including in the military and political sphere. "We have all necessary things to ensure reliably the security of our state from an outside attack.

"Therefore, Russia does not intend to enter military or military- political alliances, including NATO. At the same time, we shall, naturally, strengthen bonds of partnership.

"We seek to conclude an agreement with Nordic countries, as well as with countries whose submarines sail off Russian shores, to prevent incidents at sea and to define lanes and areas where submarines may sail and where may not as well as to achieve notifications," Grachev said.

"We shall seek to sign appropriate reliable agreements to prevent possible incidents, especially collisions of nuclear submarines," the minister concluded.

Comments on Security in Baltics

LD1109170494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1223 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Russia plans to solve the problems of strengthening security of the Baltic states through the signing of bilateral agreements with the countries of the region, Interfax was told on Sunday by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev after his visit to Denmark.

The Minister said that this does not mean the refusal to sign multilateral agreements.

During Grachev's visit to Copenhagen, the Russian defense ministry signed an agreement on military cooperation with Norway, Finland and Denmark. The minister said that Russia is prepared to develop similar cooperation with Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Grachev said that deployed in the Kaliningrad Region is a "powerful contingent" which several times surpasses the number needed to ensure security for the region. Russia is prepared to re- deploy part of the contingent to other regions of the country. The troops re-deployment should be carried out with due account of Russia's interests because, according to the Minister, "we do not need to re-deploy troops beyond the Urals. It is more important to bring the Leningrad and North Caucasian military districts up to strength".

At the same time, said Grachev, the present number of troops in the region contradicts the treaty on conventional troops limitation in Europe (the Soviet Union signed the agreement in November 1991), according to which Russia must observe definite quotas for the deployment of armaments and military technology in the Leningrad and North Caucasian districts.

However, according to the minister, "if Russia is met halfway in terms of the reviewal of flank limitations, we shall be prepared to reduce considerably the number of the personnel, and military technology in the Kaliningrad Region".

Signs Agreement in Denmark

MM1208091994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Russian Federation Defense Minister In Denmark"]

[Text] Copenhagen, 9 Sep—Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation defense minister, arrived here yesterday on an official visit. The important guest was met by Danish Defense Minister Hans Haekkerup at Verles Air Base near the Danish capital.

The main aim of P. Grachev's visit is to sign an agreement between the two countries' defense ministries on cooperation in the military sphere. This document was signed after the talks between P. Grachev and H. Haekkerup.

The agreement, which has been signed for a five-year period, envisages forms of cooperation such as consultations and working meetings between leaderships at all levels, short-term attachments at the sides' central apparatuses, meetings between delegations from military units and military educational establishments, exchange visits of warships, combat aircraft, and armed forces subunits, joint military exercises and training sessions, and air and sea search-and-rescue operations.

The sides agreed to exchange ideas and experience in the sphere of arms control, disarmament, and confidence- and security-building measures, including exchange of experience and help in carrying out inspections within the framework of the CFE Treaty.

Grachev Ends Denmark Visit

LD1009191194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1819 GMT 10 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Nikolay Vukolov]

[Text] Copenhagen September 10 TASS—The Russian-Danish agreement on military cooperation is an important step in development of bilateral relations; it helps consolidate security and stability in the European north and the whole European region, Russian Foreign Minister [title as received] Pavel Grachev told correspondents today upon the completion of his official Danish visit.

In his words, the Defence Ministry will elaborate similar agreements with other Baltic states to make the Baltic region a peace zone on the basis of mutual confidence.

The visit included meetings with the Danish leaders. Today the defence minister left for Russia.

Kozyrev on Karabakh 'Breakthrough,' Summit

LD0909142394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1346 GMT 9 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Serov]

[Text] Moscow September 9 TASS—Leaders of Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan are planning to organize a meeting devoted to the problem of the settlement of the complex situation in Nagorno- Karabakh, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told journalists today in the lobby of the meeting of heads of governments of the Commonwealth countries which is taking place in Moscow.

"In the future we intend to prepare a tripartite summit meeting," the head of the Russian Foreign Office said commenting on the results of the talks between President Levon Ter-Petrosyan of Armenia and President Geydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan held yesterday in the Russian capital.

Andrey Kozyrev characterized the results of these talks as a "breakthrough". According to him, a formula of reaching mutual understanding between the two sides was found through the mediation of Russia.

Comments on Peace Process

LD1009190794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Video report by correspondent Andrey Murtazin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Murtazin] On Friday [9 September] the talks between the Azeri and Armenian premiers were resumed, this time with the participation of the Russian foreign minister. It was announced that the leaders of the two Transcaucasian republics and the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry would give a joint news conference on the results of the talks. By 1700 hours journalists gathered at the Reception House in Vorobyevy Gory. But at the last moment the sides refused to reveal any details to the press. Only Andrey Kozyrev agreed to give an exclusive interview to our TV news agency. The Russian minister described the Moscow meeting as a step forward in the Karabakh settlement process. [passage omitted]

[Murtazin] In the view of the Russian minister, the talks in Moscow became possible only because of a truce agreed with Russian mediation, which has now been observed for four months.

[Begin Kozyrev recording] The next step is to conclude a comprehensive agreement that would envisage the establishment of solid peace. This is to be followed by negotiations on the status of Nagornyy Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh]—because one can no doubt discuss legal points only under the conditions of peace. Second, there is to be an agreement, a whole set of measures, with adequate support from international humanitarian organizations, on safeguarding the refugees' right to return home. This concerns Shusha and other regions, since the refugees ought to return to their homes. [end recording]

Suggests Yeltsin Attend Talks

LD0909185594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] The presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan, Levon Ter- Petrosyan and Geydar Aliyev, continued discussion of a broad range of issues connected with bilateral relations this morning in Moscow. At the end of the talks, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev gave an exclusive interview to our correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Andrey Murtazin] What new developments have there been with the Karabakh issue after this third round of talks?

[Kozyrev] First of all, the very fact that these two leaders, the two presidents met. This is a new development and I regard it as a step forward, and it is very important that all sides have confirmed their adherence to the armistice. That is point one, and the most important point. Secondly, on the whole I think that with this series of meetings, it is a whole series of meetings, we will be able to give a boost to the talks process. The task now, evidently, is to have a meeting of the heads of states with the participation of the Russian president and to use it, perhaps, to sort out all the finer points and come to an agreement. [end recording]

Karabakh Negotiators Comment on Moscow Talks

LD1009153894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1436 GMT 10 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Palagichev]

[Text] Moscow September 10 TASS—The two-day negotiations of Armenian and Azeri presidents held with the Russian mediation ended on Friday night after giving a fresh impetus to the solution of the Karabakh problem, the presidents said here today.

"We think that the meeting will give a certain positive impulse to the Karabakh settlement, and we have resumed Moscow talks on a draft major political agreement on termination of the armed conflict," said Russian president's plenipotentiary at negotiations on Nagorno-Karabakh Vladimir Kazimirov.

"The talks were not easy. The six-years-long war has influences bilateral relations, but they have sincere striving for peace. I think that solutions to the remaining problems will soon be found. The most important is that the sides are sure—the war must be stopped," Azeri Ambassador to Russia Ramiz Rizayev told ITAR-TASS.

A similar opinion was voiced by the Armenian Embassy's Adviser for information and press Gevorg Oganosyan. "The main result of the negotiations is that the sides confirmed their adherence to the truce and said they are ready to help the problem solution. We are grateful to Russia for its active peace-making role in this process," he said.

Stepashin To Continue Nuclear Talks in Germany

LD1009163494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1617 GMT 10 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Palaria]

[Text] Moscow September 10 TASS—Director of the Russian Federal Counter-Intelligence Service Sergey Stepashin will soon visit Germany to discuss non-proliferation of radioactive materials with heads of German secret services, head of the service's public relations center Aleksandr Mikhailov told ITAR-TASS today.

The visit will continue a Russian-German dialogue on cooperation against nuclear contraband. German State Minister Bernd Schimdbauer, who supervises the German secret services, and Sergey Stepashin stated on August 20-22 in Moscow that the illegal shipment of nuclear materials is a great danger and common efforts are necessary to counteract it.

Magazine Notes Shortcomings at Plutonium Plant

LD1009095694 Berlin DDP/ADN in German 0203 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Munich (DDP/ADN)—According to the news magazine 'FOCUS', claims by the Russian Government that the smuggling of weapons-grade plutonium is impossible are not true. This is demonstrated by a secret report by the state Russian nuclear supervisory authority on the Tomsk-7 production plant, which the magazine has in its possession. The document, which the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy has kept under lock and key since the fall of 1993, describes the safety shortcomings in detail.

"It cannot be ruled out that the staff may have collected supplies of unlogged material", the magazine quotes the final report by the investigating commission set up by President Boris Yeltsin as saying. The problem of checkpoints uncovering the transport of nuclear material remains unsolved.

The report stresses that at times there are no checks on the actual content of the containers. Weight checks are imprecise, security installations are antiquated, there are too few security guards, and sloppiness is the order of the day.

Lifting of Belgrade Sanctions May Start

LD1109185494 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] The lifting of sanctions against Belgrade could begin next week, Vitaliy Churkin, deputy Russian foreign minister, has announced. He said, at the Berlin session of the contact group for Bosnia, agreement was reached that the UN Security Council will adopt two resolutions. He explained that one of the documents will envisage the lifting of a number of sanctions against Belgrade and will define the prospects for their further lifting depending on the development of the situation. As regards the draft of the second resolution, the diplomat said it envisaged sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs. Churkin stressed that the drafts of these documents still had to be discussed by all the members of the Council who did not belong to the contact group. At the same time, Churkin added that not all of them would be delighted by these drafts.

Last Russian Soldier Leaves Poland 8 Sep

LD0909160394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1523 GMT 9 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Potemkin]

[Text] Warsaw, 9 Sep—In view of the fact that the Russian troops have completed their withdrawal from Germany, the Russian military mission in the Republic of Poland has now ceased its operations altogether. The government commissioner for the stay of the Russian troops in Poland reported this today to the country's president, Lech Walesa.

An official statement from the president's press bureau released here says the joint Russian-Polish commission, which monitored the transit of Russian units from the FRG via Polish territory, has also ceased to operate following its final session. The press bureau has announced that the last Russian serviceman left the Polish soil on Thursday [8 September].

Areas for Post-Sanctions Trade With Iraq Identified

LD0909214894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1712 GMT 9 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Sep—Russia and Iraq have identified priority areas of industrial cooperation, which they plan to develop after the world community lifts its sanctions against Baghdad, Oleg Davydov, Russian minister of foreign economics relations, announced today following talks with Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Salih. He also said there was a "firm agreement on settling Iraq's debt to Russia."

The delegation leaders summed up to journalists the outcome of the first session of the Russian-Iraqi commission on trade and economic, scientific and technical cooperation, which took place in Moscow this week. A broad range of areas for joint action was agreed in power engineering, the oil industry, heavy engineering, and iron and steel. Projects totalling more than 10 billion dollars were discussed. According to Oleg Davydov, "a major step has been taken toward preparing our cooperation." The intergovernmental commission will henceforth meet annually, and a number of working groups are expected to be formed.

Regarding the international sanctions against Iraq, the Russian minister said that "according to available information, Baghdad is honoring its commitments." In view of this, he believes that relaxation of international restrictions on developing contacts and adoption of the corresponding decisions by the international community now move up the agenda.

During its stay in Moscow, the Iraqi delegation visited not only the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry, but also the Fuel and Power Engineering Ministry, the Russian Chemicals and Petrochemicals Industry Committee, and the Machine-Building Committee. Muhammad Salih described the commission's work as "a first step," voicing his conviction that the agreements reached will serve the interests of both nations.

Russian, Iraqi Oil Companies To Revise Work Contracts

LD0909135894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] The foreign trade association Mashinoimport and Iraq's state oil company signed a protocol September 9 on revising its contracts for work on Iraqi oil and gas fields until the UN economic sanctions are lifted, the leadership of Mashinoimport told the Petroleum Information Agency.

This document provides for the verification of the state of equipment and facilities at the Iraqi oil and gas sites which Mashinoimport was building and which were not completed due to the introduction of economic sanctions against Iraq. The revision is to establish the condition of the uncompleted sites, the presence of design plans and specifications, as some may have been lost, and the volume of work needed to put the sites into operation, etc.

Experts from Mashinoimport stress that such actions are not mentioned among the international restrictions on economic relations with Iraq.

Until international sanctions were imposed against Iraq Mashinoimport was implementing two projects in Iraq which were related to the development of the Western Kurna oil fields and the construction of the Naseri-Baghdad gas pipeline.

Baghdad's debt to Mashinoimport for these projects amounts to $400 million.

Sergey Tumanov, director of the firm Tekhnoneft, part of the association, told the Petroleum Information Agency that "the issue of financing these works remains open."

Iraq is able to pay for the contracts with Mashinoimport only in the form of oil deliveries after the oil development is started and western banks are hardly likely to grant credits to Baghdad. "The question of allocating a government credit to Mashinoimport in the near term will hardly be solved soon," Tumanov said.

Interest Noted in Strengthening DPRK Relations

LD0909152294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0919 GMT 9 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Sep—Russia is interested in strengthening good-neighborly relations with the DPRK, based on the principles of respect for sovereignty, non-interference in each other's affairs, and mutual respect, an ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent was told by Valentin Moiseyev, head of the Korean section of the Russian Foreign Ministry, in connection with the DPRK's 46th anniversary, which falls today. We are interested, said the Russian diplomat, in developing relations in all areas—politics, the economy, culture—all the more so because our traditions of cooperation go back a long way.

Among important tasks are the preservation of peace and stability in Northeast Asia and in the Asia-Pacific region as a whole, with both countries becoming actively involved in the integration processes in the Asia-Pacific region. More than 70 enterprises have been built in the DPRK with our country's assistance, some of them on the basis of the compensation principle, and we are interested in the output these enteprises produce. This process needs to be resurrected.

The decline of our bilateral relations is unnatural, and is not in keeping with the interests of the peoples of Russia and the DPRK. For its part, Moscow will do everything necessary in order to surmount this abnormal situation, the Foreign Ministry section head stressed.

We are interested in the existence of a peaceful and prosperous Korea, he said, and we wish the speediest possible peaceful and democratic unification of the Korean people.

Grachev, Kozyrev Meet Georgian Defense Minister

LD1109095494 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0700 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Citing the Georgian Defense Ministry's press service, CONTACT news agency reports that a Georgian Defense Ministry delegation led by Minister Vardiko Nadibaidze has been in Moscow for several days.

The Georgian defense minister had working meetings with Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev; Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev; Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the general staff; and Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev, first deputy defense minister.

Further development of Russian-Georgian military cooperation and military and technical assistance to Georgia were the main issues discussed during the meetings. The return of the displaced persons to Abkhazia, as well as the peacekeeping process in the conflict zone, was raised in each meeting.

Delegations Hold Successful Tajik Talks in Tehran

LD1109183194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0740 GMT 11 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Kuzmin]

[Text] Tehran, 11 Sep—A meeting between a Russian Foreign Ministry delegation, headed by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshev, and leaders of the Tajik opposition took place on Saturday evening [10 September] in the Iranian capital. As ITAR- TASS was told by a Russian embassy spokesman the talks took place in "a calm and open atmosphere."

[Tajik] opposition leader Abdul Lonuri, expressed satisfaction that Russia is taking an active position on questions of a Tajik settlement and is striving to draw the opposing sides into the talks process. He noted that the government's opponents recognize that Tajikistan is within the sphere of Russia's vital interests and that Russia cannot be an observer from the sidelines of what is going on in the republic.

The opposition delegation expressed readiness to continue the dialogue in Dushanbe, insisting on the necessity of high level government participation in the talks. At the same time, it confirmed its negative attitude toward participation in the presidential elections, believing that first a transitional neutral government should be formed and the formations of the fighting sides be disarmed.

A. Chernyshev and members of the accompanying delegation postponed their departure from Tehran, which was originally planned for today. This is connected to the possibility that a high-ranking delegation may arrive in Tehran on Monday.

The Russian diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, expressed restrained optimism as regards the possibility of the success of the Tehran talks on a Tajikistan cease-fire.

On Saturday talks were also held between A. Chernyshev and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi. The Iranian side stated its great interest in cooperation with Russia on Tajikistan and its readiness to continue work with the Tajik opposition with the aim of getting it to renounce the armed struggle and occupy a more realistic position.

Political Issues

Prosecutor Urges Restoring Order in Chechnya

LD1009160894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1104 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow September 10 TASS—The prosecutor-general's office of the Russian Federation has urged the Russian government and the Federal Assembly to take immediately effective measures for restoring law and order in Chechnya. "A further delay is fraught with most destructive consequences and the death of guiltless people, who are suffering from lawlessness and arbitrary actions," says a statement of Aleksey Ilyushenko, acting prosecutor-general of Russia.

According to Ilyushenko, the situation in Chechnya has dramatically deteriorated, constitutional fundamentals of the statehood and national security of Russia, as well as generally recognized human and civil rights, are being trampled underfoot there. "Despite the decision of Russia's supreme legislative authorities on the illegal character of the Dudayev regime, he actually seized power in Chechnya and is pursuing a policy of destroying constitutional legality and breaking relations with other nations and nationalities of Russia, which basically runs counter to the interests of all Russian citizens."

As a result of all this, "Russian laws are being ignored, are not being fulfilled and observed in Chechnya. The Dudayev regime forcibly dissolved state bodies, management structure, judicial authorities and the public prosecutor's office, which are envisaged by the constitution and other laws of the Russian Federation."

Repeated appeals to Dudayev to restore normal law and order are to no avail and, as the statement stresses, are being used by him for new provocation, for a further heightening of tension, up to open threats to unleash an armed conflict.

When ensuring the conditions, needed for the fulfilment of functions of the public prosecutor's offices on the territory of Chechnya, the prosecutor-general's office, according to Ilyushenko, will do its best and take all measures at its disposal for fulfilling the tasks facing them. "One of the main tasks today is to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation of the criminal case on facts of massive killings in Chechnya, which was started on the initiative of the prosecutor-general's office."

Counterintelligence Chief Departs for N. Ossetia

LD0909171094 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Sergey Stepashin, director of the Federal Counterintelligence Agency, left for Mozdok, North Ossetia, today to become familiarized with the situation that has taken shape in this region. I would like to remind you that Groznyy has said on numerous occasions that the Chechen opposition is allegedly receiving weapons from a Russian military unit stationed in Mozdok.

Presidential Election Campaign Previewed

MM1209100194 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 94 pp 1, 3

[Article by Article by Pavel Voshchanov: "Triumph of Gnats in the Absence of Toads"]

[Excerpt] The fact that Yeltsin intends to retain the post of president even after 1996 is perhaps no secret to anyone. The question lies elsewhere—how will this be done? To all appearances this year will not bring any surprises. It is being used to make the idea of the opening of a "second term" acquire the semblance of a common opinion. First it will be voiced by individual politicians, then it will go down in the resolutions of parties, movements, and election blocks. And after that the people on the street will have their say. Under the conditions of lost popularity this is probably the only sensible step—it is possible to conduct a large part of the election campaign using other people while remaining in the political shadows yourself. I think that when society has grown tired of the fuss of the "young blood" and feels some alarm at the uncertainty of the fruit of their victory, the present power will go into battle.

But before that the president will be generous in his compliments to the politicians about whom it has been rumored that they might well.... There is already a precedent—the eulogies (later slightly muted, it is true) addressed to Nizhniy Novgorod Governor Boris Nemtsov. But what is the president's praise worth? Among the political elite known for its morbid ambition it could very well destroy the already fragile consensus. You might think that a trifle like praising someone as a very promising politician was nothing special—but it could have far-reaching consequences. What consequences? While leaders made hopeful by this very high assessment (later, incidentally, enhanced a hundredfold by journalists), sort out their relations to the point of resorting to fisticuffs with their partners in the forthcoming siege of the Kremlin, the "dominant influence"—the capital's intelligentsia—will start buzzing in disarray: "We have no alternative to Boris Nikolayevich!" And the Russian provinces will respond with the hopeless echo: "No, we don't!"

What could the political slogans of Yeltsin's future election campaign nonetheless be like? Most likely something very exalted and unspecific. About salvation from communist tyranny, about Russia's resurrection and the establishment of its statehood. This time there is hardly likely to be anything from the shock arsenal of the 1991 campaign. For instance, promises of a struggle against the privileges of the ruling nomenklatura or the population's social protection in carrying out reforms.... Winning the Kremlin will need something out of the ordinary. Something outstanding, as they say. For instance, changing the actual formula for electing the head of state, justifying this by the emergency nature of the situation which has taken shape in the country. How might that look? Something like the public accord treaty, when elections are replaced by the ceremonial signing of some act or other? By whom? Whoever you like. The more "signatories" there are, then the more grounds there are in the next five years for speaking of himself as "elected by all the people" or even more briefly as "your president."

Administrative Elite

If one were to write a historical pamphlet about the Kremlin and its inhabitants then one section would perhaps begin as follows: "Lavrentiy Pavlovich Korzhakov and Aleksandr Vasilyevich Beriya [names as published] once met...." Of course, these figures are far from the same—there are different degrees of good and evil mixed in these people. So their historical weight cannot be compared. But in some respects a comparison can very well be made. It is in the boundless trust of the Master and the very powerful repressive apparatus, in practice under no one else's control, concentrated in their hands.

Recently it has become fashionable to compare political ratings. Now people list the 100 leading statesmen of Russia, now the most influential people in the Russian president's entourage. In both cases the first on the list (in differing order) are most often V. Chernomyrdin, V. Shumeyko, Yu. Luzhkov, and O. Soskovets.... It is hard to argue with that conclusion if you follow the logic of "moving along the pyramid of power"—from its peak to its base. But if you approach it from different positions—"moving through the circles of comfort?" The above-mentioned people are a long way from the center that is the Kremlin's present incumbent. The first "circle" closest to the center would include A. Korzhakov and M. Barsukov, the leaders of the two leading special services whose task is to preserve the state.... Actually, that is nothing new for us. Under all previous rulers it was exactly the same. The only difference is that they did not use ratings to amuse the public, so power was seen in its external manifestations—in the consistency of the top names mentioned in official reports.

In the past two years with Yeltsin's blessing the special services inherited from the previous regime have been repeatedly reshuffled. It seemed that an anguished search for ways of reforming them was under way. But I think the real reasons were different. The same thing was happening in the Lubyanka and the Kremlin commandant's office as always happened after the replacement of a general secretary—the creation of a new administrative elite. But on far bigger scales and with different motives. Those who were trusted in the president's entourage knew the hidden aspects of his political (and not just political) life and were therefore not safe and were kept in the new structures. Others were bundled out to "fend for themselves." Yeltsin could not and did not want to release state security from its "vassal dependence" and enable it to guard the interests of the state and not one individual, even if it was the individual heading the state. Alas, there was no democratic revolution here either. The system remained. Moreover, it became even uglier.

Why do the leaders of our special services, particularly their guard subdivisions, under any leadership sooner or later become political figures. The secret is simple: In the USSR and now in Russia there is no practice of compulsory replacement for those connected with guarding the state's top figures. Once they have chosen a "loyal servant" and allowed him access to them, they will not part with him to the end—until their resignation for whatever cause. The consequences are far from innocuous.... Bodyguards and workers in the security services are always and everywhere alongside the people they are guarding. Exceptions cannot be tolerated. Of course, those who lead them come to know the most delicate information about the life and activity of the state elite. And so I do not think we should be surprised that the president's bodyguard ("the sledge hammer," as the people of this undoubtedly necessary and important profession jokingly call themselves) can on occasion resolve a question more rapidly than any member of the cabinet of ministers, including its head.

Speaking of future political upheavals, we should not discount the possible participation of the Kremlin special services in them. As of today their leadership consists mainly of those who have burned their bridges by publicly demonstrating their loyalty to the Master and not the law. Even the law written at the Master's instruction. At the first change of power they are not only deprived of their post but are not kept in their current profession at all. What could their scenario of action be? It may be asserted quite definitely that to all appearances there will be a repetition of the situation of the first alternative elections to the USSR Supreme Soviet when the power set in motion the entire state security mechanism in order to ensure victory for its own candidates.

But at the time this gave rise to massive sabotage from the special services themselves. What will happen this time? It looks as though the president will manage to avoid it. The painstaking ideological selection will bear fruit. If we are speaking of the subunits under General Korzhakov's subordination they could quite well become a shock detachment of Yeltsin's election campaign. But only potentially. In a realistic assessment of his popularity and chances of victory the special services will try by the end of next year to produce a model of a political crisis in Russia in order to prepare public opinion for the repeal of elections and the extension of the term of the present head of state. Of course in the interests of democracy and civil peace. There is experience in resolving tasks of this sort—October last year.

Political Vagabonds

They undoubtedly occupy a special position in the Russian political elite. Yesterday's street idols with the fronts and movements that triumph on the street who were noticed only because they knew how to shout out loud the sort of thing that would cause the hearts of citizens tired of waiting for change to miss a beat or joy. And which the tediously prudent reformers from Gorbachev's team could never make up their minds to utter. In some sense political vagabondage is the movement of the "democratic orators" who used slogans to build a road to the Kremlin for its present incumbent.

Today a noticeably tanned Yeltsin no longer needs talkative fellow fighters. The demand behind the Kremlin walls is for devoted servants. Who have no experience of show fights with a communist regime incapable of resistance but who know how to build up afresh the impregnable fortress of power. For that it is not enough merely to be able to "play with words." One needs the experience and leavening of the old apparatus which has learned not to fear any dirty work. And which has learned not to talk about it, drunk on its own importance.

Yesterday's stars of the microphone are fading one by one. A few of the initial leaders of the "movement" are now serving in the president's structures. Burbulis, Poltoranin, Stankevich, Zaslavskiy, Starovoytova, Murashev—are these names of the early presidential democracy mentioned often? Their loss of their positions in power was natural and inevitable. Those who understood this in time have already made a "soft landing" on previously prepared landing strips. But those who were unable to suppress a sense of unfulfilled potential? They returned to the bosom of political propaganda where they are preaching to their markedly scarcer supporters about "the victory which was stolen from us." Here they try not to name names because they are hoping for political rebirth. Is that possible? Hardly. Of course, Yeltsin has the habit of removing some old card from the pack from time to time. But there has not yet been a case of a card being trumped and then again becoming a trump card.

The loss of their positions at court will intensify anti-Yeltsin sentiments in the circles of his rejected fellow fighters. There are already signs of this—Burbulis' poorly concealed disappointment, the caustic nature of Poltoranin's assessments, a certain aloofness in Stankevich, the cool of Starovoytova's indifferent contemplation. They all (especially the first two) were unconditional favorites not so long ago who not without reason lay claim to the role of political puppet masters. Nonetheless one can hardly expect serious opposition from them. The main prerequisites for this—a uniting idea or uniting leader—are lacking. Here each one lives by his wits and prizes them above all else. That rules out, incidentally, the possibility of the leadership of "yesterday's men" in parties, movements, and blocs which arose at the initiative of the "second wave democrats." Here they will have to make do with initiative "within the framework of what is permitted" and so their real political weight, despite the posts they held in the State Duma, will continue to fall. Most likely after the next parliamentary elections (if they take place, of course) most of these politicians will withdraw and be obliged to seek other spheres for the application of their experience and connections.

Political vagabondage is as eternal as the place where it is born—the street. It changes and its political product also changes. So we unfailingly have a new "vagabondage" trend arising, but with new protagonists and a new philosophy. Something like Anpilov, full of nostalgia for the meat pie for 10 kopeks eaten on the vast expanses of the lost fatherland. Somewhere in Poltava or Alma-Ata [Almaty]. On hearing this many people will be amazed: "They are talking rubbish! Does no one understand?" And they will no longer remember his predecessors who said the opposite. Like Poltoranin with his statements like "Gorbachev intends to shoot down the Russian communications satellite so that our television company cannot broadcast!" or "I prevented a state coup planned for Friday by Rutskoy and Khasbulatov!" After all, even then they realized this was absurd! But they justified it by his lofty goals.... That is what always happens: When the country which has "gone down with" an idea is ready to accept whatever you like in the name of that idea, then ugly regimes are born. Regimes of which it is later said: "We seem to have gotten better but why are we so poorly?"

Commercial Travelers and Salesmen

Recently there has been quite a lot of talk of the newly emerged leaders of Russian enterprise entering politics.... Oh, if these suggestions were actually true! But, alas, to this day the country has not had and does not have any entrepreneurs in the true meaning of the concept. There is playing at "business and businessmen" on the street, which is therefore semicriminal. There is some illusion of a respectable business world. All that has been conceived by the Gaydar-Chernomyrdin market reforms is commercial travelers and salesmen. So far they alone define the ugly image of the "new Russians." And only they are trying to influence big politics introducing to them their philosophy of life imbued with their own ideas about personal and state interests.

When did this begin? Perhaps with perestroyka, when the highly rotten "floodgates" were opened in the financial sphere and the relatively uncontrolled turnover of rubles and currency arose. At the time the most farsighted and pragmatic politicians from the party apparatus, government, or union parliament engaged actively in creating their own economic "floats." The principle of "if we help them today, tomorrow they will work for us" was adopted at all levels of power. And arguments like "at the future elections the winners will be those who have more money" or "democracy is a hellishly expensive thing" became political commonplaces. The new

Russian power not only inherited all this but also made it the norm of political existence.

In contrast to the bureaucrats, politicians take under cover of ideals which they claim cost quite a lot. Those who give money "for an idea" accept this game. And for a while they magnanimously close their eyes to the fact that ultimately it virtually all comes down to ordinary worldly desire. The most innocent of these desires being to see the world and to show oneself.... This is probably almost a natural law: A hungry man in power always tries to take as much as possible from power. Struggling against this is as futile as driving flies away from a garbage heap. We must wait. Either the old politicians will become sated or new politicians will come to power who have already grown fat on free market bread.

If we look at the present Russian power as some new level which ensued after the ill-fated October 1993 then one must admit that this level is leading downward. Expectatons have not been justified, the hungry have not been sated, the sated have not arrived.... Nonetheless, the situation is changing. Those who only yesterday were in the position of dependent farm laborers for the politicians today are beginning to "hold their own." In the forthcoming season the new reality will make itself felt increasingly keenly: Yesterday's servants are amending the ambitions of their political patrons, calling in old debts from them. Nor, obviously, could it be otherwise— political powers are transient, the power of money is constant.

I think it is unlikely that in the long run-up to the presidential elections a leader of the wild Russian market will seriously announce his claims to "the crown and the throne." And by no means because of the "new Russians'" modesty or exactingness toward themselves. The reason lies in the crime which has overwhelmed the money-making sphere. Scarcely any of Russia's businessmen will risk revealing this for the sake of obscure political advantages. Most likely the tactics will be different—manifestly avoiding showing themselves, they will support those politicians and political groupings by whose hands they can quite secretly eliminate competitors who have found their feet, without attracting the revenge of other "criminal covers." There are already signs of this but in a while the country will experience a whole series of noisy scandals of this kind. Scandals in which if they want they will note the protruding "ears" of political power. [passage omitted]

Filatov on Upcoming Political Events

MM1208085194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Sergey Filatov: "12 December—Starting Point for Building New State"]

[Text] The possible use by a number of political forces of the dates of the well-known events of last fall to "crank up the situation in the country" is not being ruled out by Sergey Filatov, leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff. He noted that such dates could be 21 September and 3-4 October.

Sergey Filatov reported that the president and the government are preparing a serious plan of federal measures for the coming period. Thus, in mid-October it is planned to hold an Assembly of Parties to the Social Accord Treaty. A meeting between the parties to the treaty and Patriarch Aleksiy II of Moscow and All the Russias will be held this fall at the Svyato-Danilov Monastery.

He said the main official date is 12 December—the anniversary of the adoption of the new Russian Federation Constitution. This date has become the starting point for building a new state, Sergey Filatov noted. He also announced that editions of the Russian Federation Constitution with popular commentaries will be published in large print runs to mark this date. An edition of the Constitution aimed at young Russians is being prepared.

Filatov, Press Corps Debate Social Accord Pact

MK0909104094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 9 Sep 94 p 3

[Nika Stark report: "The Accord Pact Is in Effect"]

[Text] Over the summer, many have forgotten about the year's major event: the Social Accord Pact. Therefore the presidential staff decided to refresh the memory of the signatories and the public, and started a series of conferences on the progress of the pact's implementation. The honor of being the first to be invited to Staraya Ploshchad went to mass media organization directors who immediately pointed out to Sergey Filatov the main enemy of public accord: the Communications Ministry.

There was no accord between the presidential staff and Russian press leaders. The sides' grievances against each other are as follows: The administration believes that the process of public accord needs to be covered "even better," while the journalists think it is impossible to give better coverage to what simply does not exist. In the process of further discussion the differences between the sides became almost indistinguishable. Representatives of the journalistic elite wanted to know something about the staff's and government's coherent concept for countering the fall offensive by the opposition, while the staff proposed that the elite work out such a concept themselves: Meaning, you have signed the pact, and it is up to you to write on how it is being implemented.

The irate journalists proceeded to attack. IZVESTIYA editor Igor Golembiovskiy asked Filatov to ensure at least some uniformity in the information originating with the government and the staff (for instance, the official levels of inflation cited by them are different), and described the Communications Ministry as "a monster destroying the information structure." This definition was joined by the greater part of the meeting while

Pavel Gusev, with Moscow-Komsomol fervor, called for the ministry, much hated by the journalists, to be stifled.

Filatov was so overwhelmed by the attack that in response to the question from MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI observer Lyudmila Telen: "Why, as papers are writing about corruption in the Western Group of Forces, has Burlakov been appointed?" said frankly, "Well, thefts occur not only in the Western Group of Forces...." And reported that the staff "rejects" all proposals for merging the state bodies overseeing TV and the press, and also promised to conclude a separate agreement with the mass media within the framework of the pact.

Gaydar Says No Basis for Civil Strife

LD1009151494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1317 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Irrespective of the fact what are the future plans of the opposition currently there is no basis for a revolution, civil war, mass demonstrations of dissatisfaction and protest in our country, leader of the party Russia's Democratic Choice Yegor Gaydar declared to journalists on his return from a 5-day trip throughout the county. Gaydar and other leaders of the party visited the cities of Kaliningrad, Bryansk, Ulyanovsk, Yekaterinburg, and Tyumen.

According to Gaydar, there were many meetings "with representatives of the communist and nationalist opposition" as a result of which he was persuaded that "there exist serious problems but the people want to preserve calm and peace and are against civil war and revolution." This factor "is the most reliable guarantee stating that the opposition will not be able to do anything serious."

Gaydar pointed to the "need and expediency to hold a congress of democratic forces if it is able to resolve three problems, namely to nominate a candidate to the presidency, to work out a single procedure to nominate candidates to the parliament on majority districts, and to determine principles of behavior during a pre-election propaganda campaign."

Gaydar reported that three basic groups of the population, businessmen, intelligentsia, and highly qualified workers, are the major basis to enlarge membership of his party. He underlined that along with Moscow and St. Petersburg there are large organizations of his party in Yekaterinburg, Chelyabinsk, Perm, Yaroslavl, Kaliningrad, and several other Russian cities.

Gaydar on Lawmaking Priorities, Tax Policy

MK0909105094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 9 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Irina Vladykina from Yekaterinburg in the "Forecast" column: "Yegor Gaydar on Plans of the Russian Federation State Duma. The Head of Russia's Democratic Choice 'Cannot Bring Himself' To Grant Broader Tax Rights to the Majority of Russian Regions"]

[Text] Yegor Gaydar, leader of the parliamentary faction and chairman of the Russia's Democratic Choice party, has visited Yekaterinburg where he held a number of meetings, including in the Sverdlovsk Oblast Duma and the Ural State University.

Forecasting the activity by the Russian Federation State Duma this fall, Gaydar mentioned a number of draft laws the deputies will deal with. This is primarily a law on guarantees of citizens' voting rights whose passage, in his opinion, will "not be smooth," because the draft law is imperfect and some deputies insist that it be rewritten; others, however, believe that the law is necessary in any form. "I gradually tend to accept the second point of view," Yegor Gaydar said.

The next document which, in Gaydar's opinion, the State Duma will consider, is a law on local self-government. Gaydar said that he "cannot bring himself" to agree to the proposal on expanding the regions' taxation rights because the economic situation in the regions is very diverse. Among the regions that can be easily granted relative autonomy in tax policy, he cited St. Petersburg, Samara, Yaroslavl, and Kaliningrad.

As far as federal tax policy, according to Gaydar, a new tax code could not appear before spring 1995. "We still advocate a cut in the value-added tax and an income tax cap," Yegor Gaydar said, apparently meaning the position of the Russia's Choice Duma faction.

Zhirinovskiy Offers To Help Increase Birth Rate

LD0909165994 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] The Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR] has circulated a very curious document today which, in our opinion, is worth quoting word for word.

On 9 September 1994, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy ordered LDPR regional organizations to put more effort into increasing the birth rate in the country. The catastrophic demographic situation is jeopardizing the Russian nation and destroying all political and economic reforms, the document says. Vladimir Zhirinovskiy has ordered the creation of a mother and child center attached to the LDPR. He has also ordered that at least one child be born from the LDPR chairman himself in every regional LDPR organization in 1995. Money for this will be allocated from the party budget. Similar instructions have been issued to international organizations. The quotas for the Moscow organization will be determined by Zhirinovskiy a bit later.

Agro-Industry 'Politburo' Seen Barring Reform

MM0909141094 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 3 Sep 94 p 4

[Article by Aleksandra Lugovskaya: "The Politburo of the Agro-Industrial Complex Divides the Loaf"]

[Text] In the course of the State Duma's adoption of the budget for the current year, it became obvious that the lack of a state program of agrarian reform is becoming a very acute, even critical, political problem. The agrarian lobby has not only shown itself to be in excellent professional shape by extracting 17 trillion in budget money in a matter of weeks starting almost "from scratch," but has turned out, on closer examination, to be the political ruling clique of the economy's agrarian sector—the politburo of the agro-industrial complex.

The communists, in setting up a rural subdivision—the Agrarian Party—in good time, displayed great political farsightedness: After the elections they had two factions in parliament, numbering 100 deputies, and two sectional committees in the two chambers. Which allows them not only to fight as a big team for the agrarian piece of the budget pie, but also to pursue their agrarian course in legislation. Along with G. Zyuganov and M. Lapshin, the leaders of the agro-industrial complex team are State Duma Chairman I. Rybkin and Vice Premier A. Zaveryukha, who keeps more aloof from politics. The same is true, incidentally, of the quiet agrarian A. Nazarchuk, chairman of the Duma committee [for agrarian issues].

In the Federation Council, where political "celibacy" has been declared, the underground faction of defenders of the kolkhoz-sovkhoz system is headed by V. Starodubtsev, leader of the Agrarian Union, in full accord with V. Zvolinskiy, chairman of the senate committee.

But even this is only the visible part of the structure. V. Bashmachnikov, president of AKKOR [Association of Russian Peasant (Private) Farms and Agricultural Cooperatives] and leader of the ill-starred Russian private farmers' movement, in the years of "travail" in the clutches of the kolkhoz system, became convinced of the existence of an "underground [CPSU] Central Committee agriculture section" and of its former might, "with the power to retain its own people at all levels and echelons of the state machine." Including the Finance Ministry, the Economy Ministry, the Agriculture Ministry, etc. For instance, Deputy Finance Minister A. Krasnopivtsev, in charge of the structure of internal expenditure in the agro-industrial complex, explained to AKKOR that private farming is ruining agricultural production, and therefore "we are not inclined" to support it. The influential bureaucrat's viewpoint did not even change with V. Chernomyrdin's directive on issuing concessionary credits.

It is noteworthy that on this occasion too, trillions were extracted "wholesale" by the agrarian lobby to the tune of the old lamentations about the countryside's dire situation. Yet after the recent issuing of shares in kolkhozes and sovkhozes, the agrarian sector has become 94-percent private and is now on a par with private farming in terms of budgetary entitlements. So that the question of an entirely different structure of budget injections should have been raised. But a unique opportunity was lost. The situation has shown that the communists have no serious political rivals either in the countryside or in parliament.

Now, having packed the pocketbook tightly with trillions, the master of an entire sector of the economy will turn the screw of political control of the Russian peasantry. And the corps of [kolkhoz] chairmen will indicate the right way to vote at future parliamentary elections.

The State Protects the Sacred Kolkhoz Cow

Having produced just one decree in the course of the parliamentary semester, the Federation Council agrarian committee, free from the day-to-day work of lawmaking, has turned into the powerful ideological center of the agro-industrial complex politburo. The senate agrarians, having the reputation of fierce oppositionists, torpedo the slightest attempts by the government to encroach on the sacred kolkhoz cow. The tactics are tried and tested: Hysteria, whipped up at parliamentary hearings to which dissident "windbags" are not invited, then spills over into sessions of the chamber, provoking "heated passions" there too.

But the main aim was achieved at a recent joint "roundtable" with the Duma committee: It is high time to unite in lawmaking activity and "regulate the government in the way we need." High time, because a "repartition of land and property is taking place" in the countryside, which means that tomorrow the "Chubayses" will take our places. The action program is extensive—from a review of the laws on banks, entrepreneurship, commercial activity, etc. which were drawn up by "Western specialists" and adopted "through ignorance" by the former Supreme Soviet, to the restoration of the state order on the old, 100-percent scale. The aim—to seize the initiative and keep ownership in the hands of the "Soviet feudalists."

Nemtsov's Game in the Agriculture Field

Senator B. Nemtsov, in "venturing" to submit to the parliamentary committee the Nizhniy Novgorod agrarian reform program, was taking a fundamental "risk." The program's linchpin is a mechanism, formulated in detail, for peasants to leave kolkhozes voluntarily, both individually and en masse, to become private property owners with parcels of land and property backed up by certificates. These securities would circulate and could be sold, bought, leased, or given away—only within a single farm, thus providing protection against outside capital and "black-market repartition." Provision is also made for the acquisition of kolkhoz equipment at auction by means of these shares.

Nemtsov, who is numbered among the "band of governors" who must answer for what was "plundered," came in for a real battering at the hands of Starodubtsev's colleagues: for being part of the mafia, squandering public property, selling up the Motherland, etc. Committee chairman V. Zvolinskiy, on the contrary, realizing that he could not touch Nemtsov, who has the support of Zaveryukha and, on his say-so, Chernomyrdin, struck out at the "scientific renegades." That is, at the Agrarian Institute, which worked on the Nizhniy Novgorod model together with American experts. After an official letter from the parliamentary patron to the agriculture academy, the "Lysenko-ites" did not delay. After an investigation in the spirit of 1937, they reported back: It has been decided to merge the Agrarian Institute with-...the Institute of Cybernetics.

In order to nip sedition in the bud, a strong ideological instruction was also issued to the countryside: Nemtsov is "fulfilling" a draft drawn up for him by America which is "not ours," is false, absurd, and calls on the peasant to revert to horse-drawn plows. At every regional agrarian conference A. Zaveryukha now has to explain that agriculture in America is "in good order" and that the proposed reform does not have a political subtext. Zvolinskiy is convinced, moreover, that kolkhozes which were created "by the stick" cannot be destroyed "by the carrot."

Where Zaveryukha Is Leading the Countryside...

The absence of a state strategic reform program founded on market priorities makes A. Zaveryukha the center of agrarian policy in its transitional period. The course of the vice premier, in whom enormous power is vested, can be reduced to a laconic formula: strong state support for large, efficient enterprises, combined with reform of the hopeless ones. Asserting that he knows today's problems in the countryside better than anyone, he does not intend to permit "revolutions" there: "If I say to the kolkhozes, 'break up!', then who will feed Russia?"

It is quite natural that given this vulnerable concept, the vice premier has found himself a stranger among his own people and at home among strangers. To become known as an orthodox believer in the agrarian sphere and to go against V. Chernomyrdin's course of reform is dangerous. To seriously tackle the reform of the agro-industrial complex, by way of a concept and a program, means quarreling with its politburo in the State Duma: They are not providing the "needed" laws. But the reformers do not recognize him as "one of theirs" either. One of the most radical, B. Fedorov, regards Chernomyrdin's "fellow countryman" as the "praise singer of the kolkhoz-sovkhoz system" who is once again simply "burying" the budget trillions. Ye. Gaydar's attacks on the budget expenditure proposed by A. Zaveryukha are no less eloquent.

An idea of A. Zaveryukha's "reformist" course is provided not only by the proportions of budget subsidies and credits for the kolkhoz system and private farming, but by the vice premier's own statement that the agrarian sector is 94-percent private. And that position must be the starting point.

It was no accident that Ye. Gaydar described capital investments of 2.4 trillion in completing the construction of giant oil-processing and sugar-refining plants as an antimarket measure. Arguing that the demand for these products is only half met, A. Zaveryukha is in effect financing private enterprises. State lavishness will also provide funds—out of the 4-trillion support fund—for the construction of livestock-raising premises and other agricultural complexes which "nobody will destroy for a long time to come" in Russia. The logical conclusion is that private-kolkhoz enterprises can continue for a long time to eat up state money without fear of being held responsible for supplying the market with sufficient produce.

Another "black hole" is the 5.6 trillion for the formation of federal and regional food stocks. Last year's government injection, with the purchase of grain at prices inflated by the farmers, shows that the state order has totally outlived its role even for this section of food supplies. The liberalization of grain prices, undertaken at the reformers' insistence, enabled the peasant to taste the benefits—in production, storage, and sales. While showing at the same time that making state purchases out of budget funds is unrealistic: The debts to the countryside were not paid until this summer, while the price of bread in the stores increased several times over. Without the subsequent step, making provision for the direct sale of grain to bread plants and bakeries, these state trillions will also go down the drain.

A. Zaveryukha promises the private farmers that some 800 billion in concessionary credits will be scraped together from various budget articles. But V. Bashmachnikov, the private farmers' leader, is clearly embarrassed by this figure: The agreement between AKKOR and the government stipulates 242 billion. Apparently the image of the real "distributor," Deputy Finance Minister A. Krasnopivtsev, is more indelible.

A. Zaveryukha's resolute inclination toward bankruptcy for inefficient kolkhozes and joint-stock companies seems to confirm the government's reformist course. The outline plan involves their phased breakup into smaller collective farms. The subsequent formation of cooperatives by the peasants will take place on a private basis. Therefore the Nizhniy Novgorod method met with support. But the reference to the lack of a law on agricultural cooperatives, the "starting point" for bankruptcies, and also the desire for this process to be carried out by the State Committee for Management of State Property, render A. Zaveryukha's "reformist" measure senseless. A surgical operation must be carried out by the surgeon.

According to A. Zaveryukha's prediction, agriculture's upswing will begin in 1995. But V. Zvolinskiy, "locked" into the "politickers'" kolkhoz system, affirms the opposite: Unless kolkhozes' debts are written off, by 1995 there will be no agriculture in Russia!

...And What Fedorov Thinks About It

Knowing the true cost of efficiency in the agro-industrial complex, that "black hole" that is beyond the powers of the whole country to fill, ex-Finance Minister B. Fedorov is merciless toward A. Zaveryukha's "agrarian romanticism." Zaveryukha, who knows all about "weight loss and weight gain in rabbits, but understands nothing about agrarian relations," is, in his opinion, incapable of reforms in principle. And by holding the top agrarian post he is the main brake on those reforms. Therefore, having failed to make sense of "even two pages of Zaveryukha's agrarian policy," at one government session Fedorov proposed, out of financial desperation, handing over the agro-industrial complex to the Finance Ministry. It is his conviction that agrarian reform in Russia should be radical, cardinal, and comprehensive.

B. Fedorov bases his own market radicalism on "cast-iron" proof. The flaw is first and foremost in the actual mechanism of operation of the agro-industrial complex, which is based on subsidies in excess of all world levels and on a power hierarchy from top to bottom, consisting of ministries and agriculture departments, communo-agrarian parties, unions, and red barons, united by common class interests. There is no doubt that the agrarian lobby will continue to milk the state, that is, the taxpayer: "for pesticides, veterinary equipment, the weather, worms..." And to maintain a "ludicrous agricultural economy" in a form that suits itself—meaning vast subsidies, minimal taxes, and a total absence of food. Without shrinking from criminal indicators of the "efficiency" of the agro-industrial complex and excessively high labor-intensiveness because of the surplus rural population who have been placed on poverty wages.

In B. Fedorov's opinion, it is necessary resolutely to eliminate all forms of subsidies and to provide budget support only for those who produce cheap and competitive output on a large scale. The abandonment of state purchases, which corrupt the countryside, and, in effect, the state order, will mark the start of true market competition among agricultural producers. But until such time as the food basket produced at home is comparable in price to the imported food basket, Russia must not give up importing food, in the interests of its citizens.

A change in production relations which will change the countryside itself beyond all recognition, is impossible without a change of ownership. And that can only be done, B. Fedorov is convinced, by "outsiders," not economists even, but organizers "of the type and on the scale of Chubays." But if reform in Russia is to become a reality, the biggest change must be in the peasants' minds.

Obviously market agrarian reform will require a "brainstorm" by the best democratic brains. Today only the Russia's Democratic Choice program includes a "rural memorandum" suited to converting the peasants to the reformist faith. For the others, the countryside remains a deep mystery. But if Gaydar only looks in the direction of the countryside, Fedorov only thinks about it, and the rest are silent, who is going to do something? That leaves the communists, who are prepared to drive Russia into kolkhozes forever. The agro-industrial complex politburo does not slumber.

CPRF's A. Shabanov Interviewed

*MM0909134594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
9 Sep 94 p 1*

[Interview with Aleksandr Shabanov, deputy chairman of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation Central Executive Committee, by Valentina Nikiforova, date and place not given: "Defend Yourselves, People! Russian Communists Convening Open Party Assembly"]

[Text] "I am not a communist but I support early presidential elections. Where can I sign up?" PRAVDA readers have been asking since the statement by the Communist Party of the Russian Federation [CPRF] Central Executive Committee [CEC] Presidium.

The editorial office asked Aleksandr Shabanov, deputy chairman of the CPRF CEC, to answer that and other questions.

[Nikiforova] Let us begin with the main question. What was the reason for this step by the CPRF CEC? It is an abrupt step and generally not characteristic of the party.

[Shabanov] Yes, we did not want to aggravate the situation unnecessarily. But the time had come when we had to answer the question: Is Russia to exist or not? Why was the disintegration of the USSR in December 1991 allowed to be legitimized? Because they did not take the "reformers'" intentions seriously, they did not realize the danger posed by the sirens of the "new democracy," who with orchestrated skill addressed fine-sounding slogans to an audience preconditioned by the mass media. This lesson has cost people dear and we must learn it. It is already clear now that war is creeping or, rather, being dragged into Russia: The southern borders are ablaze. It is impossible now to predict precisely where it will break out—in Tajikistan, the Crimea, or the Caucasus—but it is clear from the situation that is developing that there is no authority in the country, they are twisting Russia around their little finger! Just look: The State Duma adopted the law on increasing pensions by a factor of 1.51 but the government had the audacity not to implement it! The president "rescued" the situation by issuing an edict on a phased, 1.15-fold increase! Here is one last example: The U.S. Agriculture Secretary paid a visit here. Well, we are always glad to see visitors. But this one came bearing gifts: a readiness to give Russia credits to buy U.S. grain. It turns out that they have had an unprecedented harvest and have nowhere to sell it. So they decided to do the Russians a "favor."

[Nikiforova] But back in July, Mikhail Ivanovich Lapshin, chairman of the Agrarian Party, sounded the alarm:

Russia has a good harvest, the Don steppes have produced excellent amber wheat but... there are no customers for it. The same problem faced Volgograd's onion producers and Krasnodar's tomato producers. But now they are importing onions from Poland and tomatoes from Turkey. Whatever else they might have done, the disbanded Soviets would not have allowed that to happen!

[Shabanov] The people are completely alienated from the authorities. I would even say that the president has taken everything on himself. The country is being ruled by edicts which do not protect the interests of the people but of the "top 10,000." There is only one conclusion: The crisis can only be overcome by changing the system of power in the country and bringing to power a government which enjoys the people's trust. That, incidentally, is what the Communist Party's election platform says. We believe that the time has come when the people must show their will—and elect a leader who deserves their trust. Otherwise... It is also clear that the present authorities have only one way out: the establishment of an authoritarian regime, which contains the threat of civil war.

[Nikiforova] To avoid that, of course, it is necessary to restore true democracy, in other words, to restore the power of the people.

[Shabanov] That is why the CPRF undertook the initiative of holding a nationwide poll. We are inviting the Russians to show their civic courage and express their opinion.

[Nikiforova] In practice this is an open vote of no-confidence in the present regime. Will that be permitted?

[Shabanov] But is it unlawful to act according to the Constitution? Let us look at what it says. Article 32 reads: "Citizens of the Russian Federation have the right to take part in the management of the state's affairs both **directly** and via their representatives." The time has come when it is necessary to **take direct part**. In addition, article 33 says: "Citizens of the Russian Federation have the right to appeal in person [lichno] and also to send individual and **collective** appeals to state organs and organs of local self-government." The Constitution itself protects us and requires us to save the fatherland. On the list of signatures it says: We do not want the powers of the Federal Assembly to be extended, we want early elections of the president of the Russian Federation in the first half of 1995. If necessary an All-Russia Referendum should be held on this question. A referendum could be justified by any socially significant expression of the will and that includes through a poll.

[Nikiforova] Aleksandr Aleksandrovich, an enormous amount of organizational work is needed for people, citizens of Russia, to realize what a responsible step they will have to take. Is the party prepared for that?

[Shabanov] If we had our own mass media it would be easier. But there are virtually none. The pro-president media will either ignore our actions or distort them and will hound the organizers of them. The example of the minister of information and the press, who merely sounded the alarm for Russia, is highly indicative of that. Thus we have one path: to enter into direct discussion with the people. One stage in the preparation for the poll will be the All-Russia open party conference with the short agenda: "Returning power to the people." It will run from 20 September through 1 October. We will invite comrades in arms and allies to it. It coincides with the beginning of the poll which, according to the law on the referendum, must be held from 21 September through 21 December.

[Nikiforova] But how will this be organized in practice?

[Shabanov] Headquarters will be organized in all regions by 10 September and initiative groups for the collection of signatures will be organized by 15 September. They announce the places where signatures are to be collected and give telephone numbers where you can get answers to questions that concern you. Signatures will be collected in municipal districts, villages, settlements, and at mass events.

[Nikiforova] When people give their signature they will have to give their surname, forename, and patronymic, their year of birth, passport number, and address—in other words, complete data on themselves. But will that data be protected?

[Shabanov] Yes. The lists will be stored in safes at local level while the certified records will be sent to the central headquarters.

[Nikiforova] Presumably this action will not please some heads of administrations. Is their permission needed?

[Shabanov] No. The initiative groups only need to inform the administration.

[Nikiforova] Now for a practical question: What might the poll produce?

[Shabanov] In the first place, we expect support from those who voted for the Communist Party in December 1993. Second, like any campaign the poll will identify those people who are not indifferent, the intelligent ones, and we hope that in December 1995 different political forces will be elected to the new organ of representative power.

[Nikiforova] In that case let us return to last year's lessons: The April referendum failed, the events of September and October ended in tragedy. When launching an action designed to achieve the constitutional replacement of the regime has the CPRF CEC Presidium taken account of those mistakes and errors?

[Shabanov] Taken account is not the way to put it. We are reliving each episode right now, too. We understand that the authorities might take harsh measures and we do not rule out provocation, that is why we are saying right now: The authorities will have that on their conscience.

We, for our part, will do everything to ensure that such things do not take place. The tragedy of September-October—its origins and motivating forces—will be the theme of a scientific conference. Political scientists, historians, lawyers, and politicians will be holding "classes" on the theme "The people and power," covering the period from the start of "perestroyka" to the present day.

I can tell you one more thing right now: The defenders of the Constitution displayed the best civic qualities and true heroism—that assessment has not been revised. That is also what it will say in the CPRF Program, which will be adopted at the congress in January 1995.

[Nikiforova] Nevertheless, Aleksandr Aleksandrovich, let us not stop in mid-sentence: Let us give the main reasons for the tragedy of September-October. The CEC Presidium has had to produce an assessment.

[Shabanov] The biggest mistake was that we overestimated the how much we could influence the opposition to Yeltsin in the Supreme Soviet. The Supreme Soviet's leaders listened to our recommendations but ignored the advice and warnings. What followed was a chain reaction: We were badly informed about the plans of the Supreme Soviet leadership and the acting president and disinformed people, which was the most flagrant mistake. That is what led us into the trap...

[Nikiforova] When replaying the events of the past 18 months I would mention another factor which the leaders of the political parties seem not to notice right now: Their low level of interaction. I think that the poll which has been announced is a test not just for the CPRF. It is a real, specific common cause for all communist and socialist parties and people's patriotic movements. I hope that you are not against it?

[Shabanov] There could not be any better support. Who can save the country if not we, working together?

Media Issues

Poltoranin 'Doubtful' on Future of Ostankino

LD1009202394 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1700 GMT on 10 September

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1700 GMT on 10 September broadcast a five- minute interview with Mikhail Poltoranin, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Information Policy and Communications, following the sacking earlier this week of Boris Mironov, chairman of the Russian State Committee for the Press.

Asked about rumors that the Committee for the Press is to be merged with the Federal Television Service, Poltoranin says: "I have heard that a draft edict on this has been prepared and even been submitted to the president. I believe the president will not sign such an edict. From the outset, when the Russian Committee for the Press and the Federal Service, the state television and radio were set up, it was clear that this would be a relapse into the past, a return to the old structures in a completely new set of circumstances."

Correspondent Sergey Medvedev then says he has information that "there is a plan to cease funding from the budget for one of the two existing state broadcasting companies, and to strip it of the status of a state company." Asked to comment, Poltoranin says: "This information is trustworthy. The idea originates from some people inside your Ostankino company, and from some people in the executive. At this stage this idea is perilous, it would ruin everything. I can tell you even more: It may well be that tomorrow there will be no Ostankino altogether. And here is how: The presidential elections are still a long way off, but some kind of invisible underhand struggle for the mass media has already begun. This is not just a struggle for your editorial offices, but for the main assets—the TV center.

"As soon as our committee drew up a draft law, which is to be adopted by the State Duma, on procedures for the future floatation of shares in all the TV and radio broadcasting centers—procedures that would involve the journalistic staff—immediately after that, while we were in a recess, an order was issued and the floatation of the shares in the centers began. I have here as many as 26 telegrams—and here is a list of centers already privatized throughout Russia. Here is one from Orenburg. There are 420 staff there. Not even all of them were gathered, and the center was promptly privatized. The staff, the 420 people working there, received just 195 shares, while the head of the broadcasting center received 736 shares. Mind you, the shares are expensive. Say, one share in the Volgograd center costs 4 million rubles. Multiply 4 million by 736—naturally, the man has not got that much money, which means that someone is behind him. But who it is—it is not up to me to say, I believe the question has to be tackled by the Federal Counterintelligence Service. Because here we are talking about Russia's security, not just about breaching or destroying the single information area, but about Russia's security. Say, you are broadcasting here from Ostankino, but your programs are not going either to the Urals, or to the Far East, or to Siberia."

On the next point, Poltoranin says he has nothing to do with Boris Mironov's appointment to the post of chairman of the Press Committee.

Finally, Poltoranin is asked whether his regular meetings with Yeltsin have resumed. He says: "First, frequent meetings were necessary when I was a deputy prime minister. Later, when I left the post, there was no longer any need for frequent meetings. When we do meet—I do not think it is anyone's business whether we meet or not—yes, we do meet, and yes, we have had discussions, on information policy among other things. Because I think the president has to have meetings with everybody."

'Vesti' To Broadcast From 'News Room' Studio

LD0909155594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1445 GMT 9 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow September 9 TASS—Starting from today all five daily issues of the "Vesti" television program will be broadcast not from "Ostankino" but from the "News Room" studio in the building of the All-Russian State Television and Radio Company which is located in Yamskoe Polye Street. Final preparations have been made within the last two days and today the "News Room" has begun to work at full capacity.

Not a single television company in the world has a studio similar to the "News Room". This innovation opens a technical era of independent broadcasting by All-Russian State Television and Radio Company, Stanislav Bunevich, deputy chairman of the company, told ITAR-TASS.

He said that the Dutch company "Cinevideogrupp" installed in the information-technical unit of the studio the equipment which allows to carry out an electronic make-up of a program, and computers replaced there a video which seemed irreplaceable.

Anatoliy Lysenko, general director of the All-Russian State Television and Radio Company, explained that his colleagues from the "Vesti" program look like "changing from a cart to a supersonic aircraft". But a journalist was and still is the main force in our work despite the most perfect equipment he has at his disposal, the general director of the company pointed out.

Economic Issues

Working Group on Nonpayments To Be Formed

MM0909150194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Sep 94 First Edition p 4

[Untitled Directive No. 1403-r of the Russian Federation Government, signed by Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin and dated 30 August 1994]

[Text] 1. With a view to deepening the study of the problems in eliminating the causes of the crisis of nonpayments by enterprises and organizations which are being considered by the Russian Federation Government Operational Commission To Improve the System of Payments and Settlements (hereinafter called the Operational Commission), an Operational Commission Scientific Working Group (hereinafter called the Scientific Working Group) is to be formed and will involve specialists of the Legislation and Comparative Law Institute under the Russian Federation Government, the Financial Academy under the Russian Federation Government, the Financial Research Institute under the Russian Finance Ministry, the Microeconomics Institute under the Russian Economy Ministry, the Banking Research Institute under the Bank of Russia, the Russian Academy of Sciences Economics Institute, the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of the Market, the Russian Academy of Sciences National Economic Forecasting Institute, the Russian Academy of Sciences State and Law Institute, the Institute for Economic Problems in the Transitional Period, the Private Law Research Institute under the Russian Federation president, and other research organizations and higher educational establishments.

Academician N.Ya. Petrakov, director of the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of the Market, is appointed leader of the said Scientific Working Group (by agreement).

Within three days the Scientific Working Group's leader is to submit proposals on the composition of the Scientific Working Group's personnel to the Operational Commission.

2. If necessary the Scientific Working Group is to bring in on a contract basis Russian and foreign research organizations and leading scientists and specialists to prepare proposals on eliminating the causes of the nonpayments crisis, strengthening control over the observance of enterprises' and organizations' payments and settlements discipline, and increasing their accountability for the promptness of settlements.

3. Within 10 days the Scientific Working Group's leader is to prepare in accordance with the Operational Commission's work schedule a list of questions for scientific study in 1994, the intended composition of leading scientists and specialists to be brought in by the Scientific Working Group, and a research expenditure estimate, and the relevant material is to be submitted to the chairman of the Operational Commission.

4. It is prescribed that the Scientific Working Group is to submit the research results and proposals on solving nonpayments problems to the Operational Commission.

5. The Russian Finance Ministry is to determine the procedure for and the sources of financing the research into nonpayments problems and is to submit the relevant proposals to the Russian Federation Government within 10 days.

[Signed] Russian Federation Government Chairman V. Chernomyrdin

Government Debates Social Spending for 1995

MK1009082094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Mariya Eysmont in the "Budget" column: "Yuriy Yarov 'Is Discontent' With the Finance Ministry's Encroachment on the Social Sphere. Despite the Fact That the Number of Those Living Beyond the Poverty Line 'Does Not Exceed 24 Million People'"]

[Text] By 15 September the Russian Federation Government is to prepare a 1995 budget concept. Yesterday's session of the Council on the Development of the Social Sphere under the Russian Federation Government, which took place in the White House under the chairmanship of Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov, focused on the share of resources that will be channeled to address social problems.

According to Yarov, 1995 spells further complications in the economic sphere, in particular a shrinking GNP compared to 1994. The Russian Federation Finance Ministry announced its intention to cut the share of social spending relative to GNP. According to Yarov, he is not going to allow a reduction in spending in the social sphere. "We cannot accept this, and we cannot allow a further deterioration of the situation," the vice premier said. By his estimates, in 1994 financing of the social sphere constituted 60 to 70 percent of the social federal budget spending envisioned by the State Duma. However, even if Yarov manages to boost emission for the benefit of the poor, the scale of social financing will not be very important. The needy sections of the population will then have to pay an inflation tax that cannot be covered by the vice premier's department anyway.

Compared to 30-35 million people below the poverty line in 1993, now, according to Yarov, "this figure, by all estimates, does not exceed 24 million."

The number of unemployed continues to grow, reaching 11 million people by the end of the first six months of the year; according to expert appraisals, seasonal fluctuations are not affecting this number this year. "The forecast for next year gives no grounds to expect an improvement in the situation," Fedor Prokopov, chief of the Russian Federal Employment Service, told the participants.

As for pensioners, they might be interested to know that at present the average pension growth rate exceeds average wage growth. According to Yuriy Lyublin, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Pension Fund Board, the size of the average pension will continue to grow and by the beginning of 1996 will reach 184,000 rubles (at present it is 92,600 rubles). Lyublin said the Pension Fund needs 74-75 billion rubles from the budget. Furthermore, pensioners will apparently get a one-time payment for the 50th anniversary of Victory Day. This, according to Lyublin, will require 500 billion rubles.

Yuriy Yarov invited members of the Council on the Development of the Social Sphere under the Russian Federation Government to prepare by 14 September their proposals for the Council of Ministers on prospects for budgetary financing of social needs in 1995.

Shokhin on 'Premature' External Debt Conversion

LD0909193994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1833 GMT 9 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow September 9 TASS—In connection with statements by Russian officials on a program of conversion of Russia's external debt within the framework of the process of privatization Aleksandr Shokhin, vice-premier of the Russian government, dispatched the following information to ITAR-TASS:

"Now it is premature to speak about the beginning of the implementation of a program for conversion of liabilities within the framework of privatization. Possible schemes are being worked out but before the completion of the negotiating process with foreign creditors-members of the London Club and firms-suppliers the adoption of such a program is not envisaged.

This is connected with the fact that within the framework of such a program only some categories of liabilities must be subjected to conversion which either are documents drawing up the restructuring of indebtedness to these groups of creditors or are not subject to restructuring. Otherwise, we would be accused of violation of the "principle of equal attitude to creditors".

Besides, we should not in principle overestimate the importance of such a program either for decreasing the size of the external debt or for stimulating investments. Programs of such kind in countries of Latin America showed very contradictory results.

In our case we should take into consideration both the specific character of the debt and the present economic situation.

The external debt of Russia amounts to over 80 billion U.S. dollars of which about 30 billion U.S. dollars may be in principle become an object of conversion.

Taking into account the current rate of exchange of the rouble, as well as the low market cost of objects of property in Russia, we may come to the following conclusions:

- a substantial decrease in the size of Russia's debt at the expense of conversion is possible only by handing over an essential share of the national economy to foreign investors;

- a substantial growth of foreign investments through conversion may be stimulated only by handing over Russian property to foreign investors at extremely low market prices.

Thus, according to our estimates, the implementation of a large-scale conversion scheme will mean the repayment (writing off) of only one eighth of the external debt at the expense of handing over to foreign firms of national property estimated at over 25 per cent of the whole voucher program of privatization.

We do not rule out in principle the possibility of implementing the conversion program but its scale, and what is most important, legal regulation must be clearly verified. Such a program must not give unconditional advantages to foreign investors and must stimulate repatriation of Russian capitals from abroad".

Official on Reduction of Commodity Exchanges

LD0909220594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1838 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] President of the Russian Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange Aleksey Vlasov believes that about half of the 320 commodity exchanges registered in Russia may close after September 10.

In accordance with the notification of the commission on commodity exchanges, under the State Antimonopoly committee, which was distributed on Wednesday, commodity exchanges whose licences are to expire on September 10 must close operations until they receive new type of licenses.

According to Vlasov, a member of the commission under the State Antimonopoly Committee, only 160 out of 320 Russian commodity exchanges have received new licences and 20-30 exchanges are to receive them in the near future. He points out that the closing of several exchange structures will help bring order in this sector of the market.

The largest Russian exchanges, such as the Russian Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange and the Moscow Commodity Exchange, "prepared all necessary documents long ago and the trades at these exchanges will not be stopped," Vlasov said.

Statistics Committee Figures on Joint Ventures

LD0909194194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1323 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Summary] According to figures from the Russian State Statistics Committee, joint ventures and foreign businesses in Russia increased their exports more than 10-fold in the first half of 1994 but still accounted for only a small proportion of export turnover.

Exports from January to June rose 10.5-fold over the same period of last year and were worth $1.596 million. Imports, however, rose faster and rose 12-fold over the same period of last year, amounting to $1.151 million.

Despite these increases, joint ventures and foreign companies account for just 7.4 percent of total Russian export turnover, according to State Statistics Committee data.

Their biggest customer abroad is the United Kingdom, which took 27 percent of the products they exported. Germany was next with 16.3 percent, the Czech Republic took 6.1 percent, and Japan 5.4 percent.

There were 7,758 joint ventures and foreign companies operating in Russia during the first half-year of 1994, employing 290,000 people and with investors from 117 countries.

Bread Price Forecast May Be 'Too Optimistic'

MM1209090194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Nikolay Ivanov: "How Much Will Bread Cost?"]

[Text] Will We Reap What We Have Sown? [subhead]

The grain harvest, which had some difficulty getting started (owing to the difficult weather conditions in some parts of the country and the inadequate technical preparedness of many farms), has been picking up steam in recent days. According to figures from the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture and Food, as of 5 September grain and pulse crops had been harvested over 26.9 million hectares, or 54 percent of the sown area. Some 47.2 million tons of grain have been threshed. This is considerably less than at the same time last year (67.3 million tons), but we hope to complete the harvest before the onset of the bad fall weather.

Will We Have Enough Grain? [subhead]

The harvest is expected to come to 90-95 million tons, which is somewhat less than last year (100 million tons), but, in Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha's opinion, this is entirely enough to meet the country's basic needs. Centralized state foreign grain purchases are not envisaged this year, but it is expected that up to 6 million tons of grain—mainly feed grain—could be imported through commercial channels. At the same time, according to A. Zaveryukha, Russia has accumulated surplus stocks of certain grain crops—particularly barley and rye—which could be exported. (These stocks stand at around 14 million tons).

What Will the Grain Purchase Price Be? [subhead]

Prices on our grain market are theoretically deregulated, but the underdeveloped nature of the market infrastructure (no more than 5 percent of grain is sold at exchanges) leads to the "Roskhleboprodukt" Corporation having a monopoly influence. The average purchase price level recommended by the government is 200,000-220,000 rubles [R] per tonne. "Roskhleboprodukt," citing its limited financial abilities (the amount of state loans), is insisting on a price of R140,000-160,000 per ton. This does not suit many grain producers, and therefore grain purchases have so far been very difficult. Only 4.7 million tons of grain have reached grain reception centers (at this time last year the figure was 12.5 million tons). Purchase prices range from R100,000 per ton in southern parts of Russia to R200,000 in Siberia.

Should We Expect a Sharp Rise in Bread Prices? [subhead]

Old-harvest wheat is running out almost everywhere. And the new average purchase prices are four times higher than last year's. Most regions will start baking bread using new-harvest grain in September. Naturally, this will entail an increase in the bread price, but it is unlikely to be a one-time sharp rise. The fact is that grain accounts for less than 20 percent of the price of bakery products. The rest is accounted for by grain transportation and storage, and by the services of the mill, the bakeries, and the retail trade. The ultimate price of a loaf of bread depends on their "contribution" too.

According to specialist calculations, with a purchase price of R200,000 per ton of grain, a kilogram loaf will cost around R1,300. But there is a danger that these theoretical calculations are too optimistic, since current prices for bakery products have pretty much reached this mark, despite the fact that bread is still being made from last year's cheap grain. It is very hard to combat the rise in bread prices, since all the participants in bread production are complaining about increased costs—energy-intensive mills face increased electricity tariffs, bakeries face increased prices for sugar and other ingredients, and so forth. Obviously, state organs will have to get involved somehow in the "bread issue"—using various concessions to cut production costs, reducing the number of middlemen, and subsidizing either the producers or bread purchasers. Otherwise, workers in the bakery trade are predicting a further fall in bread consumption. It has fallen 10 percent over the year.

Savings, Purchases of Foreign Currency Up

MM0909135394 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 Sep 94

[Unattributed report under the "Right-hand Corner" rubric: "Savings Formula: Rubles-Foreign Currency-Rubles"—from the KP DELOVOY VTORNIK section p 1]

[Text] Russian Federation Economics Ministry experts have prepared a report on the country's development this year. It notes that people's behavior has changed. Whereas earlier people laid in goods, causing flurries of panic buying, a tendency has now been observed for people increasingly to save money in deposits, securities, and foreign currency. During the first six months of the year, people deposited 7.5 percent of all cash income in the Savings Bank compared to 5.3 percent last year. People's expenditure on the purchase of foreign currency was 11.5 percent compared to 3.4 percent last year. According to the forecast, the size of people's savings in deposits and securities will amount by the end of the year to 26.4 trillion rubles. At the same time it is believed that by the end of the year incomes will exceed expenditure by 19.9 percent.

New Port To Be Constructed on Kola Peninsula

MM0909135194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 Sep 94

[Unattributed report under the "Right-hand Corner" rubric: "New Window on Europe"—from the KP DELOVOY VTORNIK section p 1]

[Text] There is a plan to build a new seaport in Pechenga on the Kola Peninsula. A Russian-Norwegian consortium has already carried out the appropriate preliminary work and it is believed that next year appropriations will be made from the budget for its construction. Russia has a severe shortage of seaports as half the former Soviet ports are now situated outside its borders and it is often necessary to to use the port of Rotterdam for the transshipment of cargoes. The capacity of the future port complex in Pechenga will be comparable to that of Rotterdam and the distance between it and Moscow is much shorter.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Lebed: 'Army Morale Not High'

BR1209142694 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 11 Sep 94 p 6

[Interview with General Aleksandr Lebed, 'commander in chief the Russian 14th Army,' by Rodrigo Fernandez in Tiraspol, Moldova; date not given: "They Threw Us Russians Out Like Mangy Dogs"]

[Text] Tiraspol—A hefty paratrooper with a voice that causes its hearers to tremble, Aleksandr Lebed confidently places his position in jeopardy with his forthright opinions, but emerges strengthened from each new confrontation with his superiors. He does not deny that he aspires to become defense minister and leaves the door open to the possibility that he could become the country's leader, under certain circumstances.

The opposition tried unsuccessfully to win him over—during the September 1993 crisis Aleksandr Rutskoy offered him the post of the rebels' defense minister, but Lebed replied by telling him to go to hell—and now even some reformists are flirting with him, perhaps recalling that in August 1991 he went to defend the White House with a dozen tanks (though he later insisted that he was only obeying orders); and the reformists believe that he could become the gendarme of the new system. Meanwhile Lebed is waiting for events to develop.

[Fernandez] Do you think the Army should perform a political role in Russia?

[Lebed] It is not up to me. The Army has its orders. In a civilized country the Army has nothing to do with politics. But that applies in a normal country that understands that the Army is an institution that must be protected and funded. In Russia, unfortunately, all problems become political. Troop withdrawal is a political problem, and so is the construction of housing for military personnel: Whichever topic is broached sends us into the arms of some politician, whose ideas are somewhat dubious, moreover. So, whether I like it or not, the Army is becoming politicized. This fact cannot be denied. And this is because its normal and vital tasks are not being performed. Its combat readiness is declining, the state's defense capability is diminishing, our equipment supplies have ceased—or almost—no experimental design work is being carried out: In other words, there is an overall decline.

[Fernandez] What is the Army's morale like?

[Lebed] This question should be put to the defense minister. On the whole, of course, morale is not high. How could it be otherwise, when they have thrown us out all over the place like mangy dogs and when we are leaving masses of soldiers without work: We do not know what will happen to them. We have been left in the lurch, and 80 percent of what we do succeed in doing is not for military purposes! That is no cause for satisfaction, is it? The Western Troops Group [as published] was one of the most powerful. Yes, the time came to withdraw, but it should have been a dignified withdrawal, with weapons and military technology.

[Fernandez] What is the status of your relations with Grachev and Yeltsin?

[Lebed] Boris Yeltsin is the country's president and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces. We have no relations. We belong to entirely different categories. As for the defense minister, it depends. The last time we met and spoke was 26 August; now I consider our relations normal. There was a time when they were bad, but I think they are satisfactory now. I do not rule out the possibility of their deteriorating again or improving still further.

[Fernandez] Many people say that you could be a good defense minister or even president.

[Lebed] I do not intend to be president. I joined the Army 25 years ago, I love it, and I would like to stay in it. As for the other suggestion, every soldier must dream of becoming a marshal, every general must have the normal pride of an officer and not be satisfied with what has already achieved.

[Fernandez] How would you describe the present situation in Russia?

[Lebed] As a crisis situation. It is enough to consider the value of the dollar and the ruble. And there is no prospect of the ruble ceasing to fall. Until this process is halted, there will be no end to the crisis. Factories are grinding to a halt, the volume of goods is not increasing, looting continues, and there are a great many advisers. It is a bad thing when there are many advisers.

[Fernandez] You have painted a gloomy picture of the Army against the background of the economic crisis. Do you not think that the time could come when the military will be forced to seize power?

[Lebed] Who knows? All leaders, both military and civilian, have always been criticized for not taking measures. You can either do nothing or take half-measures. It all depends on the circumstances. But in general, there have been no military coups in the historical traditions of the Russian officer corps.

[Fernandez] You fought in Afghanistan. Do you think that Afghan veterans have something in common?

[Lebed] We all came to this world different from each other, and when we leave it we are still different. This also applies to Afghan veterans. They fought, this war was imposed on them, they were forced to resolve a common problem in the same trenches. But then each one followed his own life, his own destiny.

[Fernandez] But do you not think that it is significant that four of ther eight deputy defense ministers are Afghan veterans?

[Lebed] What is significant about it? Those people have combat experience. That is something that does not come cheap, and that must be shared, brought into the Army. The people in command must be those who have been tested in combat. Then they will issue correct orders and will assess the situation correctly, because they know the price of human life and of blood shed in large quantities. They will not commit stupid acts, and if they do, they will be minor ones. There is nothing worse than generals who have not fought. They are terrible people.

[Fernandez] Do you think that Russia needs a strong man, such as Pinochet, for instance?

[Lebed] I do not believe that any experiment, however excellent it may be, can be copied entirely.

[Fernandez] Do you think that President Yeltsin could stay on for a second term of office?

[Lebed] Apart from being president, Mr. Yeltsin is also commander-in-chief. With your question, you lead me into an area in which you force me to violate the principle of subordination if I express an opinion on the commander-in-chief. That is my concern. For better or worse, he is our president.

[Fernandez] I understand. But even IZVESTIYA, which is clearly pro-Yeltsin, published a sharp article after the Russian troops withdrawal ceremony. Did you see that ceremony?

[Lebed] When he conducted the band?

[Fernandez] Yes.

[Lebed] (He lowered his head, shook it and sighed, raised it again and spoke, with a savage smile concealing frustration and anger.) I have my own comments. But they are untranslatable. So I will refrain from making them.

[Fernandez] You have already said that you do not want to be president, but you also admit that people write to you suggesting it. If circumstances were to demand it, and in view of the fact that many people do request it, would you be willing to consider this possibility?

[Lebed] I do not know. I have said it, and I repeat: I do not like to make hasty decisions about hypothetical situations. When the situation comes about, then I will decide. If we are to fantasize... if my aunt had a beard, she would be my uncle.

Grachev on Smolensk Combat Training Inspection

LD1209102794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0950 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Sep—Army General Pavel Grachev, Russia's defense minister, arrived in Smolensk today. The minister is taking part in the work of a Russian Defense Ministry commission which is carrying out a comprehensive inspection of directorates and troops of the Moscow military district in the middle of September. The main aim of the inspection is to check out the troops' combat training, ITAR-TASS has learned at the Russian defense minister's office.

Latest Equipment To Be Exhibited 11 Sep

LD0909221194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1838 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] More than 200 of Russia's major defense enterprises will show their production at the annual fair/exhibition opening in Nizhniy Novgorod on September 11. The Armaments, Military Equipment and Conversion exhibition was organized by the Russian Defense Industry Committee, the Russian Defense Ministry and the State Committee on Russian Armaments.

For the first time the exhibition will include the latest models of armored equipment, such as T-90, T-87 and T-72ts rocket-canon tanks, Kornet-2 and Shturm-S anti-tank missile launchers, Ataka anti-tank rockets and armored vehicles for repairing and evacuation work, rockets for launching from tanks, etc.

In addition to well-known artillery systems the exhibition will also show the Vena 120-mm self-propelled artillery system.

The exhibition will also feature civilian planes, inflatable motor boats and Air-Land missiles.

Air defense missile launchers, radio radar stations, satellite television systems and navigation equipment will be on display.

The exhibition's organizers said they expect Russian Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets, State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin and Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko to visit Nizhniy Novgorod for the event. Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev is expected to attend the exhibition on September 13.

Stolen Uranium Seized in Udmurtia

LD0909180194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Video report by correspondent I. Khrekin, including recorded comments by S. Leongardt, head of a department at the Directorate for the Fight Against Organized Crime in the Udmurtian Interior Ministry; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] Now to an incident in the town of Glazov in Udmurtia. You are now going to see footage that probably could not have appeared on screen before. A vast consignment of uranium was seized during an attempt to sell it.

[Khrekin] This inconspicuous piece of metal in the shrubbery is the notorious Uranium-238 with admixture of 235. The dosimeter is going mad: The radioactivity here is 200 times above the natural background level. Those who stole the uranium knew it, but the craving for money proved stronger than reason. The uranium traders have been detained. In the course of the operation, 100 kg of uranium was confiscated. Is this the last incident of this kind?

[Leongardt] As someone living in the region I would like to believe it is the last incident here. But I do not think anyone can guarantee this. [end recording]

[Announcer] This was not the first incident of this kind. A year ago a group was detained in the same town of Glazov in possession of 137 kg of uranium. The prospect of hearing the words: How much is your uranium? at the marketplace is somewhat disconcerting.

Further on Uranium Seizure

LD0909221794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1838 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] One hundred kilograms of Uranium-238 were seized from three criminals trying to sell it in Glazov (North Udmurtia in Russia) on September 7, the Udmurtia Interior Ministry told Interfax.

The criminals were detained. A criminal case was instigated against them. They were charged under provision 232-2 of the Russian Criminal Code: illegal acquisition, possession, utilization, transfer or destruction of nuclear materials. They face up to ten years imprisonment—under aggravating circumstances.

The uranium, which is not used for producing weapons but is a by- product from producing fuel for nuclear power stations, could have been stolen from the nuclear enterprise in Glazov.

Nuclear Plant Head Proposes Joint Toxic Waste Site

LD1209093294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0818 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Sosnovyy Bor (Leningrad region) September 12 TASS—Anatoliy Yeperin, director of the Leningrad nuclear power plant, has proposed forming a joint burial for all highly toxic nuclear wastes in Russia in an interview with ITAR-TASS.

According to him, detached burials of nuclear waste products scattered across the country may pose a great danger under certain circumstances. "It will be much safer for Russians to accumulate all (nuclear) wastes in a single properly outfitted and monitored far-off site, for instance, in the island of Novaya Zemlya or somewhere else in the northern latitudes where there are already burials of nuclear wastes from nuclear submarines," Yeperin said.

There is a specialized combined works near the town of Sosnovyy Bor in the Leningrad region which accumulates waste products from 200 plants based in St. Petersburg and the region which have to do with nuclear fuel in some way. Its capacities have been largely exhausted. That is why the problem of burying nuclear wastes has acquired so much importance in the north-western part of Russia.

In expert opinion, similiar situations are emerging in other regions as well.

Under the circumstances, Yeperin's proposal arouses evident interest.

Steam Leak at Kursk AES

LD0909121294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1022 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] The Russian Ministry for Emergencies reports that the fifth turbo-generator of the third unit of the Kursk nuclear power plant, Central Russia, has been switched off. A leak of steam from a high pressure cylinder was named as the reason.

Experts at the Russian atomic energy authority Rosenergoatom have explained that such incidents may take place at some turbines of the Chernobyl type reactors of the first generation and by no means represent emergencies. Such problems are eliminated easily by tightening up the sealing ring. Water steam does not contain radioactivity and poses no risks to the personnel.

The Kursk nuclear power plant has four 100 MW power units. Currently the first and second units are working at 70% of their capacity as planned reconstruction is underway.

Mir Cosmonauts End Space Walk

LD0909164294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1519 GMT 9 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents viktor Gritsenko and Veronika Romanenkova]

[Text] Moscow September 9 TASS—Cosmonauts Yuriy Malenchenko and Talgat Musabayev have just returned to the Mir orbiting station after five hours and four minutes in space, almost 90 minutes more than it was planned.

The cosmonauts have removed and installed new equipment on the station's exterior, prepared the future location of the boom, inspected and repaired the station's damages. Physician Valeriy Polyakov was staying inside the station to control the on-board equipment, keep contact with the space-walkers and monitor the state of their health.

Spacewalks have ceased to be exotic several decades ago after Soviet Cosmonaut Aleksey Leonov spent over 12 minutes in space in 1965. Spacewalks are now included in practically almost space mission. Last year Russian cosmonauts spent over 26 hours in space during seven spacewalks. Female cosmonaut Svetlana Savitskaya made a spacewalk ten years ago. Aleksandr Serebrov has been on spacewalks more than others, over 24 hours within four flights.

The spacewalks are so far limited by the space suit abilities. The Orlan-D space suit currently in use enables a spacewalk of six hours long. Russian and U.S. specialists are working on tactical-technical requirements for a common spacesuit for the international orbiting station.

Federal Assembly

Rybkin on Duma Role in Government

MM1208095794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Sep 94 First Edition p 2

[Telephone interview with Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation State Duma, by Yevgeniy Skukin; place and date not given: "The Duma's Task Is To Help the Government"]

[Text] There is nothing original about a telephone interview. The work schedule of Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the upper chamber, is too packed during the last weeks of...the legal vacation.

[Skukin] Ivan Petrovich, the deputies' vacations are drawing to a close: You reassemble 25 September. But we are still quite a long way from completing the repairs to the State Duma building. Will you not once again have to look for premises elsewhere?

[Rybkin] In actual fact, half the premises are now ready: two blocks on Okhotnyy Ryad, and two on Georgiyevskiy Pereulok. The furniture will start being installed 20 September. In general, the repairs schedule is being adhered to, and so it is most likely that the building will be in working order by 5 October—the first plenary sitting of the second session of the fifth State Duma.

[Skukin] Despite the moves, which are comparable with natural disasters, and other troubles, the State Duma has adopted many laws, and still more are being worked on. The Duma's potential could be greater, however, if the factions managed to achieve greater accord. How hard it is to do this is borne out by the long battles over a number of basic draft laws. Despite work by the conciliation commission, the government privatization program was not adopted.

[Rybkin] Nevertheless, we did adopt the budget for 1994. I consider this one of our great achievements. For the country lived without a budget for almost three years. Moreover, we are now working together with the government on the 1995 budget, which will be submitted to the State Duma as early as September. In general outline, of course. In addition, the government will also submit a new tax code. In general, I consider the question of regularizing finances the most important. Further. The Civil Code, which in many countries is known as none other than a second, economic constitution, passed two readings. It remains to make literally the finishing touches, and after the third reading we will pass the code to the Federation Council and the president.

In all, 40 draft laws passed their first reading and three their second.

At the same time I do not wish to conceal my discontent at myself and my colleagues. More could and should have been done! Particularly on the privatization program. It is now being worked on in the State Duma's economic committees.

[Skukin] Consequently, there are no grounds to speak of a growing confrontation between the executive and the legislature?

[Rybkin] I will state frankly: Some people do not like the smooth working arrangements and the incipient stabilization in economics and politics. Some are inclined toward customary swaggering, rallies, kicking up a racket, and weeping and wailing. Most of those who shout and weep and wail were simply overlooked by the voters and did not get into parliament. But there are some manifestations of this mutinous feeling also in the ranks of deputies. But, for the most part, all this sludge is being submerged by profitable legislative work. Evidence of this is provided by 27 federal laws prepared by the State Duma in the space of seven months and already signed by the president. Maybe our greatest achievement is that we try to help the government to work calmly in the present difficult situation. Our main task, so I believe, is to help the government every day, renewing its composition and correcting its main areas of activity. But let's leave the glory until later.

[Skukin] One final question. What is your attitude to the idea of extending the term of office of the Federal Assembly and the president?

[Rybkin] We have discussed various options in the Duma. Of course, we would like to realize in full what is written in the constitution. There are constitutional terms for the branches of power, and they have to be worked right through. On the other hand, opinions are being voiced that elections every six months place quite a strain on a country in which the budget is drawn up in such a complex manner. In principle, this viewpoint is not groundless. Particularly as it will be necessary to revise not the Fundamental Law itself, which prescribes a four-year term for the Federal Assembly, but only the transitional provisions to it. Why not hold simultaneously elections of the president and the Federal Assembly 12 June 1996? For by that time the presidential candidates will also have behind them a definite base and a team formed with the participation, inter alia, of the Federal Assembly.

I say all this on the basis of the voters' actual proposals, which I heard during tours of Russia. Well, this is the right of components of the Federation. If two-thirds of them advocate such an option, the State Duma will simply be obliged to consider it. This, incidentally, is provided for in the transitional provisions. I will remind you that the State Duma approves this decision by two-thirds of the votes. The Federation Council by three-fourths. Then the president approves it and turns to those same components of the Federation, which must support the decision by two-thirds of the votes. The procedure is very complex, but if components of the Federation initiate such an idea, it can be resolved. But, first of all, it is necessary to take into account and implement the constitution and the law, setting an example of law-abidingness.

Regional Affairs

Judge Says Chechnya May Secede Through Referendum

LD1009144194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1317 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Gadis Gadzhiyev, judge of the RF [Russian Federation] constitutional court, is convinced that the republics of North Caucusus will not interfere Chechnya's inner affairs. "Chechnya has appeared in a complete isolation due to the fact than an inefficient regime was established there. None of the neighboring republics will help either Dzhokhar Dudayev or his adversaries," Gadzhiyev declared in an interview with Interfax.

When asked about proposals to agree to Chechnya's withdrawal from Russia voiced by different political forces, Gadzhiyev explained that "in accordance with the RF Constitution Chechnya is a subject of the Russian Federation and though Chechnya has not signed the Federative Treaty it does not mean that the republic is not part of Russia."

"This was not a treaty on creation of a federation. The matter concerned only re-distribution of powers in the existing state," Gadzhiyev added. He reminded that neither the previous nor the present Constitution of the Russian Federation have stipulated that a republic has the right to abandon the Federation. Only the people can change this provision at an All-Russian referendum.

Speaking about legal grounds necessary for introduction of a state of emergency in Chechnya Gadzhiyev pointed out that there is no new laws on the state of emergency yet, moreover, a federal constitutional law on this issue is to be adopted in the near term.

"Consequently, the decree on the state of emergency adopted by the previous Supreme Soviet is in force if it does not contradict to the RF Constitution. Only the president can introduce the state of emergency and then the Federation Council must confirm his decision," Gadzhiyev said.

Security Council Urged To Focus on Chechnya

LD0909111094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1022 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] The first deputy chairman of Russia's State Duma Mikhail Mityukov told Interfax that although military interference in Chechnya was absolutely inadmissible, special sessions of the Russian Security Council and the upper house of the national parliament must focus on what is happening in Chechnya.

The civil war in Chechnya could escalate, Mityukov said, and the federal authorities must show "utmost caution" now that direct interference in regional affairs could bring serious repercussions for the northern Caucasus and Russia as a whole.

Mityukov hoped primarily for the advent to power of political forces which would be able to "insure peace and political stability by holding elections to the bodies of legislative and executive power of the Chechen republic and the State Duma of the Russian Federation."

Shakhray Expects 'Another Upsurge' in Chechen Crisis

LD0909142794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] The Russian Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray expects another upsurge in the Chechen crisis within several weeks, however he fears that the conflict there will not have an early solution.

Speaking in an interview on Friday Shakhray said he was certain that the disastrous situation in the economy—a result of Chechnya's self-isolation—would inevitably produce a political solution to the Chechen crisis.

"A regime that is ruining its economy cannot last", Shakhray said.

He believes that there are equal chances of Dudayev's deposition by force and of a political dialogue. Dudayev's voluntary resignation for the sake of saving the nation is a possibility, too.

However, Shakhray said he had no faith in any voluntary resignation.

Dzhokhar Dudayev's tactical military success and the fall of the town of Argun, the stronghold of Ruslan Labazanov's opposition group, has only caused the opposition to unite.

On the recent message of the Russian government to the Chechen people Shakhray said that it made no sense waiting for Dudayev to reply. The Chechen diaspora abroad and cultural and public figures "in principle support the Russian government's position in the sense that no troops have been moved in and a consistent anti-crisis policy is being conducted, which is the sole correct way".

N. Ossetian Leader Seeks All-Caucasus Negotiation

LD1109155994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1403 GMT 11 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz September 11—To solve all ethnic issues in the Caucasus, Russia, which is the main guarantor of stability in the region, should have an adequately-verified national policy, said North Ossetian President Askharbek Galazov.

In an interview with TASS, he suggested inviting all Caucasian leaders to the negotiating table.

I believe the Russian president "could undertake this peacekeeping mission", Galazov noted and offered North Ossetian capital Vladikavkaz as the venue for a meeting of Caucasian leaders.

According to him, the forum might be held in mid-October, during the celebrations to mark 220 years since Ossetia joined Russia and 210 year since the foundation of Vladikavkaz.

Commenting in the current situation in Chechnya, the North Ossetian president said, "We appeal to all Chechen citizens to display will and wisdom in order to preserve the nation, peace and accord in the Chechen republic and in the Caucasus, to cover their arms and sit down at the negotiating table. The Chechen people's fate in in its own hands and depends on its political wisdom and vision".

Scenarios for Chechnya Developments Eyed

MM0909160194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Sep 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Vasiliy Kononenko: "It Is Already Impossible To Stop War in Chechnya, Kremlin Believes, and Prepares for Localized Conflict"]

[Text] A closed session of the Expert Analysis Council chaired by Presidential Staff leader S. Filatov has taken place, at which a report entitled "On the Situation in the Chechen Republic" was delivered by Emil Pain, leader of the Presidential Council's working group on ethnic policy. Since the report did not meet with any serious objections during the discussion, it can be adopted as a reference point for Kremlin policy regarding Chechnya for the near term.

Noting that the destruction of D. Dudayev's regime had three stages—the collapse of the economic and social sphere (fall 1992-summer 1993); the criminalization of political life and the escalation of the armed power struggle (June 1993-September 1994); and the beginning of the civil war against the background of the discrediting in the people's eyes of the idea of state independence for Chechnya—Pain drew the following conclusion.

By fall 1994 a trend of a consistent fall in Dudayev's legitimacy had emerged. While in 1991 he was illegitimate from the viewpoint of Russian law and last year he also lost legitimacy under Chechen law following the Chechen parliament's disbandment, he has now lost actual legitimacy as a result of the narrowing of his support base to the level of his native clan and an entourage "bound" to him.

The assault on Argun, which contravened the mufti's ban on bloodshed, precludes support for Dudayev from extremely influential traditional institutions in Chechnya—the Council of Clans and the mufti. Armed clashes between groupings that split from the ruling regime (of Ibragim Suleymanov in Groznyy, of Beslan Gantemirov in Urus-Martanovskiy Rayon, of Ruslan Labazanov, who has dug in in Argunskiy Rayon, and of others), have destroyed traditional social control mechanisms, like the ban on killing on pain of a blood feud, the ban on killing co-religionists, and such like.

In this situation there are two possible scenarios for the development of events.

Consolidation of the Opposition

Following the taking of Argun—Labazanov's base—by Dudayev's troops and the quite probable dislodging of Khasbulatov from the village of Tolstoy-Yurt, we can expect the opposition to unite under the wing of the Interim Council based in Nadterechnyy Rayon. If this unification takes place the Interim Council's idea "about a return to the Russian fold" will become common to the entire opposition, although according to an expert assessment Avturkhanov himself is an insufficiently authoritative figure to rally Chechen society around him. On this basis a political combination consisting of the figures of Avturkhanov and Khasbulatov cannot be ruled out. But it can be assumed that this tandem will not last long.

"War of All Against All!"

With the increase in the number of people deeply committed to the removal of Dudayev, a situation of "a war of all against all" could arise with the participation of numerous "partisan" detachments not susceptible to any control or unification. A scenario whereby Dudayev wins absolute victory over the opposition and restores his control over all Chechen Republic territory is unlikely. He has insufficient human and financial resources for this. Equally as unlikely is a scenario of victory by the opposition on its own, without assistance from Moscow. The scenario of a "Caucasian war," whereby the authorities and populations of other North Caucasian republics are drawn into the conflict, can be entirely ruled out.

The main task for Moscow is the localization of the conflict. In this respect the following priority measures are required:

—strengthening the blockade (railroad—including the construction of a detour—air, and financial) of the Chechen Republic, the prevention of the incursion of armed groups from neighboring republics onto Chechen territory (they could be sent by national radicals from Kabarda, Dagestan, and other republics in the region);

—increasing the attraction of the example offered by those regions of Chechnya which have voluntary restored jurisdiction to Russia (by means of restoring the payment of pensions and the health care system that has been completely destroyed in recent years);

—consolidating the law-enforcement structures of the security forces in the regions under the protection of the Russian authorities;

—holding consultations with the representatives of various political forces in the Chechen opposition.

IZVESTIYA's correspondent asked E. Pain a number of additional questions.

[Kononenko] Emil Abramovich, you noted that the fight for power in Chechnya is equivalent to a fight for control over channels for the receipt of sources of finance. What funds do the groupings involved in the conflict have at their disposal? Do you know where these originate?

[Pain] The main sector from which Chechnya legally received financial resources—the oil refining industry—was destroyed toward the end of 1992. Now the republic is receiving money from illegal operations. I do not know the specific sources, but there is reliable information that a considerable proportion of Chechnya's population is involved in reselling commodities imported from Turkey and other countries in the East. Some 100-150 unauthorized flights out of the Chechen Republic are noted every year. Given the absence of customs and tax controls by the Russian authorities Chechnya has become a staging post for secret financial and smuggling operations, a free economic zone for crime. And a struggle is under way for these sources of income. There is no point in looking for Moscow's hand in this. All the leaders of the armed groupings emerged from the depths of Dudayev's regime and fought for Chechen independence.

[Kononenko] Is there still a chance of beginning talks with Dudayev?

[Pain] It is ruled out today since there are many Dudayev's in Chechnya now. No one controls all the republic's territory. Many rayons are alienated from authority. That is why it is either necessary to talk to everyone or wait for the Chechens, tired of the instability, to choose. Strangely enough, the opposition's defeat in Argun works in its favor strategically. It has begun to join forces, including creating a single command.

[Kononenko] Some analysts expect surprise maneuvers from Khasbulatov....

[Pain] I consider Khasbulatov's candidacy for the role of national leader of Chechnya to be an unlikely one. At the same time the more embroiled he becomes in the

Chechen conflict, the less chance he has of returning to big-league politics in Russia. He has become a marginal, transitional figure.

[Kononenko] One last question: What next?

[Pain] The most widespread position espoused by Russian citizens boils down to not noticing Chechnya and not interfering in the conflict. But Chechnya will not allow itself to be forgotten.

The Chechen Republic has no sources of financial resources apart from receipts from Russia. The Chechens will seek ways into Russia, including criminal ones. The momentum of the conflict can no longer be stopped, as has repeatedly happened in Africa, Asia, and even Europe. Therefore Russia must try to localize it and create a status quo for those who recognize its laws. The fact that Elchibey and Gamsakhurdia have quit the political arena is evidence that an incapable nationalistic and isolated regime forces people to embark on self-determination more rapidly.

Further Opposition Action Against Dudayev

LD1109143694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1240 GMT 11 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Excerpt] Moscow, 11 Sep— Ruslan Khasbulatov's peacemaking group has exhausted its potential for settling the Chechen crisis. ITAR-TASS was told by the Interim Council's press service that this was stated on Saturday evening [10 September] at a meeting with Umar Avturkhanov, ex-speaker and leader of Chechnya's Interim Council. According to the Interim Council, whose headquarters are located in the settlement of Znamenskoye in Nadterechnyy rayon, the sides arrived at an agreement regarding further actions by the opposition to overthrow Dzhokhar Dudayev's regime.

Stepashin Holds Confidential Talks in Vladikavkaz

LD0909183194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1644 GMT 9 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 9 Sep—The aim of a visit to the Northern Caucasus by Sergey Stepashin, director of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service, is to become acquainted with the operational situation in the region and work out the necessary decisions to stabilize it.

It has become known to ITAR-TASS from reliable sources that he arrived in Vladikavkaz today. He met behind closed doors at a local airport in the area doors with the leadership of North Ossetia and with Vladimir Lozovoy, head of the provisional administration in part of the territories of North Ossetia and Ingushetia. It is expected that a range of issues related to the stabilization of the situation in the region, the implementation of edicts by the Russian president, and decisions adopted by the Russian Government, the procedure for the return of refugees and forced resettlers to four populated localities of the Prigorodnyy rayon, which was signed by the presidents of North Ossetia and Ingushetia and head of the provisional administration, were discussed at the meeting.

This afternoon Sergey Stepashin went to the Mozdok Rayon of North Ossetia and visited subunits of Russian troops' in the state of emergency regime.

Presidential Representatives To Consider Status

MK0909115094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 9 Sep 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Conference of Presidential Representatives To Open"]

[Text] A conference of authorized representatives of the Russian Federation president in Russia's regions is opening today in St. Petersburg. The conference will be held behind closed doors and its agenda has not been disclosed. It has transpired from informed sources, however, that the meeting will discuss the charters of krays and oblasts and also the Fundamental Laws of the republics within the Russian Federation; it is also possible that the delegates will consider the draft statute on authorized presidential representatives in the country's regions.

Presidential Representatives' Conference Summed Up

MM0909184594 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Lyubov Volodina: "Charters Being Drawn Up in All Krays and Oblasts"]

[Text] The Russian president's representatives in Federation components assembled at a conference in St. Petersburg yesterday.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI's correspondent was told by Vyacheslav Volkov, deputy leader of the Presidential Staff, that this was a regular scheduled conference at which two questions are being discussed: the preparation of charters of Russian krays, oblasts, and autonomous formations and the creation in Federation components of public councils modeled on the Public Chamber under the Russian Federation president.

Charters are now being drawn up in all krays and oblasts and, according to the Staff's schedule, their adoption will be completed by the end of the year. Orenburg and Pskov Oblasts already have their own charters, but the Orenburg version is now being checked at the State Legal Administration. When preparing local "constitutions," deputies are using as a basis the model document sent out by the Staff to krays and oblasts, but, Volkov said, "deputies see their job as being to mount opposition and put forward their own initiatives," which do not always fit in with Russian national legal norms. The president's representatives are called upon to see that these documents conform to the Russian Federation Constitution by bringing in qualified legal experts, including Moscow experts, to help local legislators, and if necessary to resort to assistance from presidential structures. Experience of this work was summed up at the conference and general principles and approaches to the problem were worked out.

As regards the creation of public chambers in Federation components, according to Volkov this initiative "originated at local level" in Federation components where there is a strong public movement and where there are developed political structures interested in ensuring that public initiatives and the population's opinion are taken into consideration by local organs of power when the most important decisions are being made. Through its representatives at local level, the Presidential Staff intends to support this form of feedback but does not intend to plant it artificially in places where objective preconditions are not ripe. Public chambers are now already operating in St. Petersburg and in Kemerovo and Chelyabinsk Oblasts.

Troop Reduction in Kaliningrad, Baltic Fleet

WS1209084194 Kaliningrad STRAZH BALTIKI in Russian 31 Aug 94 p 1

[Interview with Admiral Igor Kasatonov, first deputy commander in chief of the Russian Navy, by A. Lobskiy: place and date not given: "Stabilization Does Not Mean Lack of Changes"]

[Excerpt] [Lobskiy] You often visit the Baltic Fleet and closely observe life here. Which processes would you single out as the most significant?

[Kasatonov] Many problems now facing our society, the Armed Forces, and the Navy are especially acute in the Baltic Fleet. First, these are the complications caused by the withdrawal of Baltic Fleet units from the Baltic states and the fleet's specific geopolitical situation. Despite all that however, the fleet has preserved its manageability and is adequately resolving all the posed tasks. The level of combat readiness of ships and units meets the requirements. Undoubtedly, this is a result of officers', ensigns', and sailors' diligent work and is also due to the command's ability to properly prioritize and persistently achieve the goals.

At the same time, it cannot fail to cause our concern that, for a number of reasons, certain types of combat training have been entirely discontinued; the tactical exercises, which I attended here, were primitively organized; and absolutely insufficient attention is being paid to perfecting teamwork in groups and crews.

It is clear that one cannot increase the efficiency of, say, fighting submarines, if there are no submarines. Incidentally, a decision has been made to delegate one or two submarines for permanent stationing in a Baltic Fleet base, for purposes of combat training of battleships. The primary task, however, is that every officer and commander should display much invention in resolving the issues of combat training, and strive for constant improvement of their subordinates' special, firing, and tactical skills.

The period of turmoil and uncertainty is over. The state has taken expansive measures to stabilize the situation in the Armed Forces. The outflow of officers has virtually stopped. The fleet's withdrawal is nearing completion; its structure and places of deployment have been determined. The primary task at this stage is to constantly improve professional skills.

[Lobskiy] Speaking in Brussels, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev stated that Russia is ready to discuss the issue of reducing the numerical strength of troops stationing in Kaliningrad Oblast, in line with existing agreements on the reduction of troops in the northwestern areas of Russia. Does this not mean that the Baltic Fleet is standing on the threshold of new cataclysms? Can we speak of stability then?

[Kasatonov] I believe that this is just a statement prompted by political motives. As far as I know, this issue is not being discussed at this point. To resolve it, we would have to seriously amend the international agreements and treaties. On the other hand, any reduction of the Baltic Fleet should be closely linked to the reduction of fleets belonging to other states. That is why, we should not speak about [reducing] the fleet, but about [reducing] other components—attack hardware [udarnyye sredstva], fast-response forces, aircraft, and so on. Yet this, I repeat, will be a very long process. It is only natural that security of the western borders of Russia, which is a maritime power, will be the primary consideration in resolving this problem.

[Lobskiy] The central press has published a statement by General Colonel Kolesnikov, the Russian Army's chief of staff, to the effect that the Defense Ministry is ready to subordinate the Navy to the Border Troops. What reasons are behind this statement?

[Kasatonov] First and foremost, this is either certain reporters' incompetence or lack of responsibility. Very often a joke, a remark, or an opinion intentionally carried to the point of absurdity in the course of discussions, is interpreted by reporters as a clear-cut, well-thought position. The Navy, of course, has ships that could perform the border-protecting functions. However, aside from these ships the Navy has aircraft carriers, nuclear submarines, and a powerful onshore infrastructure useless for the Border Troops, yet vital for Russia.

The president, the government, and most members of the Federation Council and the State Duma realize that. I must say that the Navy's problems meet with the state leadership's understanding and assistance.

[Lobskiy] Thus, do you believe that we all the hardships of the transitional period and all the cataclysms are behind us?

[Kasatonov] Exactly. There will be changes, of course, for life is going on. However, I believe that those changes will amount to a search for optimal structures, and for ways to enhance the efficiency of these structures' functioning. The most complicated and painful period of reforming and reducing the fleet is already over. Although, I repeat, life is going on.

[Lobskiy] At one time, rumors were being persistently spread about the Navy Command's opposition to the idea of creating the Kaliningrad special defensive region. How true were they?

[Kasatonov] I do not know which period you are referring to, but ever since I assumed my post, the Navy Command understood that in the new geopolitical situation this measure would increase both the fleet's combat robust power [boyevaya ustoychivost] and the efficiency of using the heterogeneous forces deployed on the oblast's territory. It is natural that the Navy Command had its own approach toward the resolution of the issue of forming a new system of command and a new structure of the Kaliningrad special defensive region. However in general, the idea did not evoke any doubts. This process is under way now. For example, specialists from the Staff and the Navy's central departments have taken an active part in subordinating antiaircraft forces to the Baltic Fleet.

Nizhniy Novgorod Arms Exhibition Previewed

MK0909095094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 9 Sep 94 p 2

[Report from Nizhniy Novgorod by Vyacheslav Chebanov under the "Exhibition" rubric: "'Kornet-2' To Fire Its First Public Shot. 'Rosvooruzheniye' Wishes To Separate the Aircraft From the Frying Pans"]

[Text] The opening of an exhibition has been timed to coincide with City Day and will be marked by a flight over the Volga by MiG's that are part of the exposition.

Vladimir Bessarab, general director of the "Nizhniy Novgorod Fair" All-Russia joint-stock company, told journalists at a briefing that the exhibition called "Armament. Military Hardware. Conversion" is an event meant exclusively for specialists and is not at all commercial. The organizers have spent 675 million rubles to arrange the show that will take place from 11 to 16 September. According to Mr. Bessarab, a whole number of weapons will be shown for the first time. For instance, there will be on display the T- 80U tank, the "Kornet-2" antitank missile system, the "Arena" active tank-protection system, the "Buk" and "Tor" air-defense missile systems, the "Vena" 120-mm self-propelled gun, the "Iks-15S" missile, firearms, and so forth.

Visitors will be able to see all this only on the day after the exhibition opens, and for 5,000 rubles at that. As a matter of fact, journalists' accreditation will also cost a pretty penny, 50,000 rubles. According to Larisa Krylova, press secretary of the "Nizhniy Novgorod Fair" All-Russia joint-stock company, on the last day of the exhibition, 16 September, accredited journalists together with specialists will be invited to a shooting range where the Russian arms will be shown in action.

After closing, the exhibits will be loaded on trucks and transported to Moscow, right to the White House, where from 20 September to 5 October a similar event will take place, Vladimir Bessarab explained, albeit with a more "peaceful" exposition—in Moscow, the show will feature mainly conversion technologies. At the Nizhniy Novgorod exhibition, too, not only all sorts of weapons, but also enterprises' conversion products will be demonstrated. The "Rosvooruzheniye" State Committee, however, did not fully agree with the idea, Vladimir Bessarab said, because it sells only weapons. All other products the enterprises have to sell on their own.

There will be no arms sales during the exhibition, however. The purpose of the event, Vladimir Bessarab explained, is "to help sign contracts and also to assist foreigners in familiarizing themselves with the capabilities of the Russian military-industrial sector, and not only in producing high-class weapons." By preliminary accounts, the exhibition will be attended by 28 foreign military attaches.

Kuzbass Free Economic Zone Prospects Viewed

MM0909123194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 94 Weekend Edition p 5

[Report by Andrey Lvov: "Yet Another Free Zone"]

[Text] The "Kuzbass" Free Economic Zone is being launched in Novokuznetsk 20 through 23 September.

So much has been said in recent years about free economic zones, their virtues and advantages, that one can only wonder why the whole country has not become such a zone. You will, after all, agree that it is reasonable to ask why, if a free economic zone is an earthly paradise, we have to create it only in individual oblasts, cities, or regions rather than across the whole state.

However, let us reserve the right to answer that question to the economists and return to the "Kuzbass." The decision to set up a free economic zone here was made two years ago now. But, as often happens, once the mechanism was set in train it began to show serious operational malfunctions. For some reason, foreign investors have been in no rush to invest their capital in the development of industry, although the concessions granted them are considerable. For example, joint ventures with at least 30 percent foreign capital may be exempt from taxes for up to five years provided they commit themselves to operate for at least 10. Moreover, goods actually produced within the

"Kuzbass" Free Economic Zone are also exempt from payment of import and export duties. Is this not a paradise for entrepreneurs?

But of the 160 joint ventures registered in the Kuzbass in the last two years only 64 are actually in operation. The rest are waiting. They are waiting first and foremost for signs of stabilization of the country's economy to show. It is too risky for foreign entrepreneurs to take the plunge today. Yet, as practice shows, it is possible. And it is in proving this that the ideologues of the free economic zone are now engaged.

I spoke with Sergey Grzhilevskiy, deputy general director of the Kuzbass trade fair, and he frankly acknowledged that the present tax concessions are largely nullified by the absence of a free customs zone. As a result, even for functioning enterprises with a foreign capital imput a host of difficulties arise with importing and exporting goods. Therefore the construction of our own international airports and the creation of a free customs zone in one of them is a paramount task. We have laid the foundations of two such airports in Novokuznestsk and Kemerovo. Kemerovo Airport will be given the task of speeding up the removal of customs duties on freight.

Today 38 countries have invested capital in the Kuzbass Free Economic Zone. The Chinese, Germans, and Americans are the most active in this matter. Clearly, fears of Russian economic difficulties are giving way to common sense. The advantages of participating in the development of local mineral wealth are clear even to a nonspecialist. Very large capacities for the production of mineral fertilizers and metallurgical combines are concentrated here, and people have learned to produce custom-made mining machinery which has won a place for itself in the world market. The region is the sole manufacturer of window glass, cement, dyes, and, last but not least, aspirin. So you have to get a move on. It is no wonder therefore that such enticing prospects should have been properly assessed by leading European experts. The "Kuzbass" Free Economic Zone development plan secured against competition an EEC [as published] package of programs designed to assist CIS countries during the transition to a market economy. This competition is conducted by an international commission located in Brussels. On the basis of its results the region has been allocated financial support estimated at 1.5 million ECUs.

We now have the serious task of demonstrating the relevance of our economic development projects to our own country's government. Indeed, it is with this aim that the present launch is being conducted. It was explained to me that, even if people have an idea of the potential here, particularly the potential of the oblast where 30 percent of all the region's production capacities are concentrated, there are few who can really put a figure on it.

It is clear that one single event is hardly going to solve all the problems at a stroke. And it is not being done for that reason. The basic task is to lay the groundwork for the future, to find suitable partners, and to demonstrate the advantages of investing in the region. And the support of such undertakings at a state level can be the best guarantee of investments. After all, your partner's faith in this project depends to a large extent on the stability and the predictability of policy in the oblast. Indeed, it is a thing in itself. The "Kuzbass" could become a kind of economic test bed for models of new economic relations with foreign investors and tax policy toward promising production units. So the experience of an individual zone could be tried out countrywide. Why not?

Ivan Rybkin in Voronezh, Zyuganov To Follow

MK0909110094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 9 Sep 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Provincial Chronicle" rubric: "Voronezh"]

[Text] Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation State Duma, is making a working tour of Voronezh Oblast on 8-9 September. His schedule includes meetings with deputies of the city and oblast Dumas, visits to workers collectives, discussions on a number of problems with representatives of the oblast administration and members of the "Chernozemlye" regional organization. In the next few days the city will also receive Gennadiy Zyuganov, chairman of the Russian Federation Communist Party's Central Executive Committee and chairman of the communist faction at the State Duma. He plans to meet with local communists and also workers of a number of enterprises and journalists.

Discusses Grain Import Ban

MK1009084094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Yelena Tregubova under the "Voronezh" rubric: "State Duma Chairman Hears Peasants' Advocates. Ivan Rybkin's Response Nearly Drowned by the Roar of Tank Engines"]

[Text] During his tour of Voronezh Oblast yesterday, State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin attended the meeting of the "Chernozemlye" interregional association. Apart from the Voronezh Region, the association includes Lipetsk, Kursk, Belgorod, Tambov, and Orel Oblasts.

The meeting was held at the building of the former Voronezh Oblast party committee, which presently houses the oblast administration. The key "specific proposal" Belgorod administration chief Yevgeniy Savchenko made to the State Duma speaker was that "a law be passed at the federal level prohibiting grain purchases abroad as long as grain is available in the country."

Voronezh Governor Aleksandr Kovalev, whose region is among the leaders in terms of "the pace of harvesting" nonetheless "warned" his colleague against "any, including domestic, monopolism."

Ivan Rybkin did not take an unequivocal stance on the problem, saying only that "export and import policies have often been carried out without taking into account state interests at all." Despite Viktor Chernomyrdin's recent statement that the purchasing prices "recommended" by domestic grain producers often exceed world prices, Speaker Ivan Rybkin assured Chernozemlye leaders that "sometimes it is more profitable to transport domestic grain to the Far East, even considering all transport markups, than to buy it for hard currency."

Notably, according to the local newspaper VORONEZHSKIY VESTNIK, Ivan Rybkin's final words were suddenly "drowned by the roar of tank engines;" the tanks arrived in the square outside the administration building to take part in City Day festivities on 9 September. On the evening of that same day the speaker flew back to Moscow, promising his Chernozemlye hosts in a farewell speech that in the future, proposals by interregional associations will be given the status of legislative initiative.

One of these days, Ivan Rybkin's party comrade, Gennadiy Zyuganov is also due to visit Voronezh. Dmitriy Dyakov, VORONEZHSKIY VESTNIK's editor-in-chief, pointed out in a conversation with your SEGODNYA correspondent that "recently Viktor Anpilov promised during one of his regional trips that Voronezh would become a center of restoring communism in the country."

Voronezh Oblast could probably also become one of the country's military centers: According to a local newspaper, Pavel Grachev will arrive here 14 September on his way to Bogucharskiy Rayon, where some units of the Western Group of Forces will be deployed, to "inspect" it together with Governor Kovalev.

Trade Union Conferences Discuss Future Tactics

MM0809121194 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Sep 94 p 2

[RIA report: "Trade Unions Preparing Strikes"]

[Text] Conferences of representatives of trade unions from all Russian sectors and regions belonging to the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia began in St. Petersburg yesterday. The aim of the conferences is to define the trade unions' tactics in connection with the unprecedented slump in industrial production and the series of mass dismissals at many major enterprises.

Russia Aids Polish Research at Katyn Massacre Site

LD1009155494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1436 GMT 10 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Sidorov]

[Text] Smolensk September 10 TASS—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, currently in the Smolensk region on a one-day working visit, went to the Katyn Forest today to see burial places of Russian, Soviet and Polish citizens.

"The blood that was spilled here should unite us with the Poles. In these tombs there are both Polish officers killed in the 1940s and Russian and Soviet citizens executed on political reasons from 1914 through 1953," said the premier.

The remains of over 10,000 local residents-victims of the totalitarian regime are buried in the Katyn Forest, head of the Smolensk regional administration Anatoliy Glushenkov told ITAR- TASS. The majority of common graves have not been identified, that is why the local authorities are against exhumation, including that of Polish citizens.

A 15-member Polish search group is working in the Katyn Forest in accordance with the Russian-Polish agreements. A similar Polish group is working in the area of Mednoye settlement, the Tver region. The Russian premier inquired about the group's needs and promised assistance, including Soviet archive information on the large-scale execution of Polish officers and POWs. Chernomyrdin stressed that a "grand monument for education of future generations" should commemorate all Katyn victims. He also said that any construction in the area is inadmissible.

Today the premier visited the Smolensk aviation plant to acquaint himself with the conversion progress. The plant will need 500 billion rubles worth of state assistance for the conversion, Smolensk regional governor Anatoliy Glushenkov told Chernomyrdin. The latter promised to discuss the problem with the government.

Later today Chernomyrdin will leave for Vyazma by helicopter to see the progress of the harvesting campaign and visit a military settlement under construction.

Komi Republic Curbs Wage Hikes, Unemployment Benefit

MM0909143194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 8 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Tatyana Borisevich under the "Situation" rubric: "Northern Version of 'State of Emergency'"]

[Excerpts] Komi Republic—Starting in September 1994, a restriction on the growth in wages is being introduced in the Komi Republic. Citizens dismissed for violating labor discipline will be considered unemployed. Sanctions against banks have also been established for violating deadlines for paying accounts.

All these measures have been taken from the draft edicts and directives of Yuriy Spiridonov, head of the Komi Republic. It is clear at first glance that acts are being prepared which run counter to existing legislation. They will undoubtedly elicit overt and covert resistance. Who, for example, will like the restrictions on the growth in wages? Or the fact that, instead of the legitimate 11 days following dismissal, the unemployed will be placed on the books and will start to be paid benefit only after three months? The other restrictions being introduced will not arouse enthusiasm either.

What has prompted Komi's executive authorities to do this? The economic situation in the republic.

There are 24,000 unemployed in the republic, but 60 percent of them were released from work at their own request.

But formally, from the legal viewpoint, the executive branch in Komi is exceeding its powers. Common sense suggests that, in order to stop the complete collapse of the economy, it is necessary to place finances under control. That is, the authorities must engage in their own direct business.

New Tatarstan Democratic Party Formed

LD1109172794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0711 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Kazan [no dateline as received]—Tatarstan's political forces have started to regroup in connection with the upcoming elections to the republican parliament. A Social-Democratic Union of Tatarstan [Sotsial Demokraticheskiy Soyuz] has been set up. It includes republican branches of Russia's democratic parties—the Democratic Party of Russia, the Social Democratic Party of Russia, and the Social Democratic People's Party of Russia. The new organization has issued a declaration that says, inter alia: "An increasing danger of extreme and even Fascist forces coming to power as a result of the social cost of reforms dictates the need to strengthen the social democratic aspect of the democratic movement. The process of division has ended. Integration lies ahead, the document stresses.

Moscow Deputy Prosecutor Lisov Dismissed

MM1209103194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Leonid Nikitinskiy: "Coauthor of 'Kremlin Plot' Dismissed"]

[Text] According to information from the prosecutor's office organs, Yevgeniy Lisov, coauthor with Valentin Stepankov of the booklet "The Kremlin Plot" [Kremlevskiy Zagovor] about the August 1991 events has been dismissed from his post as Moscow deputy prosecutor.

The official reason for the dismissal is the reduction of the salary of the city's deputy prosecutor but according to unofficial ireports Lisov and Moscow Prosecutor's Office investigator Shukin are blamed for the collapse of the investigation into the mass riots in North Ossetia in 1992 initiated under the leadership of Aleksey Ilyushenko. Lisov's dismissal will also be of importance in the context of next week's forthcoming joint collegium of the General Prosecutor's Office and the Internal Affairs Ministry which will hear the results of the check on the work of the Moscow prosecutor's office and internal affairs main administration.

Petersburg Tractor Plant Resumes Production

MM0709150394 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 7 Sep 94 p 1

[Unattributed, untitled report from "Good News" column]

[Text] Work on the main tractor production line of St. Petersburg's "Kirovskiy Zavod" joint-stock company resumed Monday [5 September]. The reason for the two-month stoppage was a lack of product demand. All 350 tractors, worth around 21 billion rubles, have now been sold.

International Affairs

Masol Views Results of CIS Session

LD0909202894 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] [Announcer] I have already said at the beginning of the bulletin that the number one event in the life of CIS states today was the session of heads of governments of CIS states. Our delegation has just returned from Moscow. Our special correspondent Nataliya Kondratyuk arrived together with the delegation. The material she has brought has not been edited yet. Therefore, we are broadcasting the interview with Vitaliy Masol, Ukraine's prime minister, in the original, as they say.

[Begin recording] [Kondratyuk] Vitaliy Andriyovych Masol, good evening again. What are the results of today's session of heads of government of CIS member countries, and the meeting with prime...[pauses] The first question is what does the MEK [Mizhderzhavnyy Ekonomichnyy Komitet: Interstate Economic Committee] mean for Ukraine?

[Masol] Well, the first thing I want to say is that the MEK means the market of Russia. No state can survive without a market for its products, and the MEK means that we can have the Russian market again and supply our products to it. Many people think that when an economic commission is mentioned, that this is some kind of empire. No. In order to buy something one has to sell something. This is what the MEK means on the whole.

[Kondratyuk] Vitaliy Andriyovych, does the MEK not mean Ukraine's dependence on Russia?

[Masol] Firstly, I want to say that if one considers the economic relationship as a whole, then Ukraine does not depend on Russia. But from the viewpoint of the economic market, the market of demand, it does depend on Russia, we need to sell our products, sugar, gas equipment, diesel locomotives, railway carriages, and so on. Only Russia can buy [products such as] our pipes for the gas industry. Russia needs all of this. We, on the other hand, need gas and oil.

[Kondratyuk] Vitaliy Andriyovych, can we enter the MEK on a permanent basis or only when we need to, only when we delegate our powers and then we...

[Masol interrupts] Only when we delegate our powers. Thus, the condition of this MEK is that we delegate our powers on whatever issue.

[Unidentified correspondent] That is, we are not yet a permanent member of an economic union.

[Masol] Yes, yes.

[Correspondent] Not yet.

[Masol] No, no, no.

[Kondratyuk] Was the issue of Boris Yeltsin's visit to Ukraine raised at the meeting with Chernomyrdin today?

[Masol] You know, we agreed that one should prepare oneself first, then talk about visits by whatever official. But to just pay a visit...[sentence incomplete]

[Kondratyuk] What was the conversation about in general?

[Masol] On the whole we talked about settlements for gas and oil, economic relations, how we are going to work in future, what Ukraine is going to pay with for the oil and gas supplied. I want everyone to know that we have not settled up for 1993 yet. Well, all of these issues were discussed—including issues of the problems of our debts, and foreign debts too, and the problem of nuclear disarmament too, and the work of our nuclear power stations, the Black Sea Fleet, and much more.

[Correspondent] Was it a fairly tough conversation, or not?

[Masol] No, you know it was a fairly friendly conversation between two equal government leaders.

[Correspondent] Vitaliy Andriyovych, how do you assess the work of today's session on the whole?

[Masol] You know, it was very well prepared. It was very constructive. i have just been to Tajikistan, to its embassy, where they were celebrating the third anniversary of their independence, and I emphasized there too, that it was a very constructive consultation of heads of government. [end recording]

[Announcer] This was an interview with the head of our state's government, which Nataliya Kondratyuk has just brought from the plane.

Strobe Talbott Postpones Visit To Kiev

LD0909172794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1510 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—The visit by Strobe Talbott, the U.S. ambassador-at-large [title as received], to Ukraine, scheduled for 9 September, has been postponed. Ukraine's Foreign Ministry spokesman Petro Dotsenko told this to a UNIAN correspondent. According to Petro Dotsenko, the visit by the president of Ukraine to the United States was to be prepared and specific issues of bilateral cooperation considered during the visit by the U.S. ambassador.

Valentyna Leschenko, representative of the U.S embassy in Ukraine, said she had no information on the reasons for the postponement of the visit.

According to unofficial data, the postponement of Strobe Talbott's visit to Ukraine is connected with the cancellation of the visit by the U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry to Russia on 9 September.

Moroz Seeks Joint Group To Monitor U.S. Aid

LD0909165894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1418 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Parliament Chairman Oleksandr Moroz during a meeting with visiting U.S. senators on Thursday put forward proposals for setting up a joint interparliamentary group to monitor the use of U.S. aid and investment.

Moroz believes that an appropriate agreement could be signed during his visit to the United States on October 10.

He held out promises that the Ukrainian parliament would ratify the non-proliferation treaty (NPT). However, Moroz said the world was unaware of the country's specifics and that immediate nuclear disarmament was hard to implement even for technical reasons. He called for wider security guarantees to Ukraine including economic ones.

Moroz stressed that more than 10 NPT signatories were failing to observe the treaty with many others not wanting to disarm themselves.

Head of the American delegation Patrick J. Leahy admitted to a delay in the provision of U.S. aid though he gave assurances that it could be increased as soon as Kiev speeds up economic reforms and the country's privatization process. He said Congress-allocated funds would not be used for any purpose other than for which they were intended for.

For his part, Moroz said "the Ukrainians are seeking to build an independent state with a market-led but government regulated economy". On the slow pace of privatization, he blamed the setback on objective factors rather than subjective reasons.

However, Moroz said both the legislature and government had taken steps to reverse the situation and speed up economic reforms. He said the main controversy was about ways of implementing the privatization program, proper legislation and timing.

In his words, Kiev needs a $1 stabilization fund to spur up reforms. If not, it will be hard to curb inflation and give a nudge to reforms, Moroz said.

The Ukrainian official called on the Senators to galvanize activities in Ukraine and named conversion, the updating of the home industry, nuclear disarmament and the farming sector among the prospective areas of co-operation.

Deputy Premier: Aid Needed To Implement Reforms

LD0909194294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1824 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Ukraine cannot move to implementing the recommendations of the IMF immediately, Ukrainian Vice Premier on Economic Policy Igor Mityukov said. Mityukov was appointed on September 8. Before this appointment he was the deputy chairperson of the National Bank of Ukraine.

"To begin reforms we must receive financial support so that introduction of the reforms is not painful for the Ukrainian population," Mityukov stressed.

Mityukov said he believed that the Ukrainian government would "prove to our partners in the IMF that we continue to seek reform but we must think about their social consequences."

Mityukov said the program for macroeconomic stabilization which Ukraine must submit to the IMF had been practically worked out. He added that on many issues Ukraine had found understanding with the IMF and the World Bank. In particular, the IMF accepted our point of view on liberalizing currency regulation step by step, he said.

Commenting on a possible inflation rate in Ukraine up to the end of the year, Mityukov told Interfax-Ukraine that he expected it to be much less than last year's rate of 80-90 percent a month. He said he believed that the inflation rate depended on how coordinated the actions of the government and the National Bank were. He stressed that his priority was to strengthen relations between the government and the National Bank.

Moroz Discusses Aid With World Bank Group

LD0909200094 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1330 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev—At a meeting on 9 September with Daniel Kaufmann, head of the World Bank's regional mission in Ukraine, and Basil Kavalskyy, director of the Europe and Central Asia regional department of the World Bank, Oleksandr Moroz, Ukraine's Supreme Council chairman, stressed that the Ukrainian parliament is inclined to adapt its legislation to international norms so there are as few obstacles as possible to granting financial assistance to Ukraine.

Daniel Kaufmann named the main spheres in which Ukraine can count on assistance: the development of exports, creation of private enterprises and new job places, and also reconstruction of the energy structure.

Oleksandr Moroz and Daniel Kaufmann exchanged detailed opinions on the latter project. The World Bank representative reported that the project, which is being proposed to Ukraine, is above all about structural changes in the sector, the creation of non-state agencies for energy usage, a council of directors and so on. He assured that the World Bank is able to invest up to $500 million in Ukraine's energy sector. According to him, a group of the bank's specialists have arrived in Ukraine today, 9 September, to study the possibilities for granting this assistance.

The Supreme Council chairman stressed that as the sides' views do not coincide in everything, Ukraine is prepared to examine this project and its argumentation. He expressed the conviction that it is not worth making the granting of other investments to Ukraine dependent on the project proposed by the World Bank with regard to reconstruction of this sector being put into practice, because it has certain peculiarities—most of the energy is produced at nuclear power stations.

Oleksandr Moroz also reported there is now an official accord with Ukraine's prime minister and Ukraine's National Bank chairman on setting up working bodies for cooperation with the World Bank.

Moroz Meets With Austrian Commerce Delegation

AU1009124894 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 2 Sep 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Oleksandr Moroz Received a Delegation from the Austrian Chamber of Commerce"]

[Text] Yesterday, chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council Oleksandr Moroz received a delegation from the Austrian Chamber of Commerce headed by its president Leopold Maderthaner. In the course of talks, they discussed the further development of Ukrainian-Austrian trade and economic ties and ways to make them efficient and specific. Ukraine is interested in expanding relations with Austria on the basis of mutual understanding and mutual advantage, pointed out Oleksandr Moroz. In the opinion of the head of the Ukrainian parliament, the Austrian economy is clearly oriented toward social needs. Its experience may be useful for the economy of the young Ukrainian state. Our country also hopes to receive support from Austria on the question of Ukraine's joining GATT.

Already, more than 100 joint Ukrainian-Austrian ventures are at work. However, Austrian businessmen express their concern in view of the instability and inadequacy of Ukrainian legislation regarding foreign investments.

Oleksandr Moroz said that, in the near future, the Ukrainian parliament will discuss and adopt a whole package of laws designed to speed up economic reforms and create favorable conditions for the activity of producers and investors.

Trade Talks Held With Uzbekistan

AU1009124794 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 6 Sep 94 p 1

[Unattributed report published under the rubric "Moment": "Ukraine's Delegation in Tashkent"]

[Text] On 4 September, a Ukrainian state delegation headed by Ukraine's Minister of Industry Anatoliy Holubchenko arrived in the capital of Uzbekistan. The visit by the Ukrainian delegation had been preceded by a personal message from Ukraine's President Leonid Kuchma to Islam Karimov, president of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It is expected that questions of the principles of partnership and cooperation between Ukraine and Uzbekistan in the sphere of trade, economic and industrial ties will be discussed, as well as agreements on the promotion and mutual protection of investments, production cooperation, trade and economic cooperation, and an interbank accord.

Democrats Attack Draft Treaty With Russia

MK0909094094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 9 Sep 94 p 5

[Report by Konstantin Parishkura in the "Ukraine" column: "The Parliament Session Is Going To Be Stormy. The President and Deputies Have to Clarify Their Relationship"]

[Text] Recently the democratic association "Ukraine," which incorporates approximately 50 political parties and public organizations, circulated a statement bearing on the treaty of friendship, cooperation, and partnership due to be signed by the presidents of Russia and Ukraine in October. The statement contains sharp criticism of the draft which, in the association leaders' opinion, "has been three-fourths coordinated" and which is being imposed to a considerable extent by Russia. Association members do not agree with a number of provisions concerning Ukraine's state borders, the mutual repulsing of aggression, free transit of Russian goods via Ukraine's territory, the joint economic space, and so forth. "Ukraine" has described the draft treaty as contradicting international law, "encouraging territorial claims" on the part of Russia, and also conflicting with Ukraine's constitution and laws. Prior to this, Ukrainian People's Rukh Chairman Vyacheslav Chornovil appeared in "Okna" ["Windows"], an evening analytical nonstate TV program, with a similar assessment of the draft. In all likelihood, its discussion will be included in the agenda of the second session of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, 13th convocation, which will open on 15 September.

It is also likely that the question of approving the new ministers appointed by Leonid Kuchma will also be raised at the session, because, addressing a closed meeting with the newly elected Supreme Soviet deputies, which took place on 6 September, the president said he objected to the cabinet of ministers' being formed before presidential elections, and that he is against the 10 percent quota of government appointments allocated to him by "some ironists." One of the "ironists" is none other than Supreme Soviet Chairman Oleksandr Moroz. Therefore observers put little trust in the statement by the Ukrainian parliament speaker to the effect that all actions by the legislative and executive branches are mutually coordinated.

To sum up, the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet session promises to be stormy. Especially considering that the Ukrainian president has announced his intention to maintain the rights granted by the Constitution, saying quite bluntly that he does not expect a cloudless relationship with the Supreme Soviet.

National Affairs

Reportage on Crimea's Executive-Legislative Crisis

Meshkov Suspends Parliament

LD1109053994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0519 GMT 11 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[Text] Simferopol September 11 TASS—Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov announced the suspension of the operation of the legislature and local councils this morning. Speaking over radio and television, he read out his decrees under which he assumed all powers.

Meshkov announced that a draft of a new constitution will be compiled, which will be offered for a referendum on next April 9. Following this, elections to the Crimean legislature will be set within three months and bodies of local self-rule formed.

Meshkov said that the present parliament "does not deserve" to conduct legislative work, since it "was seized by a corrupt group".

Further on Suspension of Parliament

LD1109111894 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] We have already reported that Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov addressed a message to the people this morning. Our correspondent Yevgeniy Novikov in Simferopol has the details:

[Novikov] Yuriy Meshkov said in his address that the latest steps taken by the Supreme Council are of a premeditated nature and directed at aggravating the political struggle in Crimea, paralyzing the work of the government, and removing the legally elected president. Such actions by the parliament, Yuriy Meshkov said, are weakening Crimea's position on the eve of the signing of the Ukrainian-Russian treaty and could lead to serious economic consequences which will, first and foremost, bring hardship upon the population of the peninsula.

In connection with the threat of political chaos and loss of control, Yuriy Meshkov stated that his edict of 9 September [date as heard] suspended the functioning of the Supreme Council and the local councils at all levels. The responsibilities of the local councils are being transferred to the heads of administration in the localities and the mandates of the deputies are annulled. He also said that a referendum will be held, no later than 9 April 1995, on the draft of a new constitution for the Republic of Crimea.

In conclusion, Yuriy Meshkov appealed to the population to rally behind their president. He urged the deputies not to repeat the mistakes made by the previous Supreme Soviet of Russia.

The president's statement clearly took the deputies of the Crimean Parliament by suprise. In any case, the calm outside the Supreme Council on Sunday morning was only disturbed by the unhurried footsteps of the OMON [Special Purpose Militia Detachment]. In contrast to the deputies, all the members of the president's administration are at work in spite of the fact that this is a Sunday morning. Yuriy Meshkov is in his office and is holding a meeting with the heads of the local administrations.

Meshkov Appeals to Crimean People

LD1109145894 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Radio "appeal to Crimea's citizens" by Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov "this afternoon"—recorded]

[Text] The legal significance of the decrees adopted amounts to not permitting any attempts to use the Constitution for purposes of narrow self-interest in the future. The right of the main and only holder of state sovereignty, Crimea's people, to determine the content of the fundamental law, the republic's Constitution, will be restored. All structures of state power will be obliged to submit without questioning, unreservedly, to the Constitution already endorsed by Crimea's people, to submit to the people's will concentrated in the Constitution adopted by the people itself.

Details of Crimean President's Edicts

LD1109171294 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1620 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Simferopol, 11 Sep—In accordance with the edict by the Crimean Republic's president "On the Organization of State Administration in the Crimean Republic in the Period When the Referendum on the Crimean Republic's Draft Constitution is Being Prepared and Held," the powers of the legislative power in the Crimean Republic will be implemented by the Crimean Republic's president and heads of administrations appointed by him until the referendum on the said issue and elections to the legislative authorities are held. The funds, which were spent on maintaining Crimea's Supreme Council, are directed to the protection of the most vulnerable sections of the population. The Crimean Republic's Procurator's Office, together with Crimea's Internal Affairs Ministry (no one is being allowed into Crimea's Internal Affairs Ministry except for General Kuznetsov and his personal driver) are to investigate the links between certain deputies of Crimea's Supreme Council and criminal structures.

The decree "On Elections, the Legislative Assembly, and Bodies of Local Self-Government," envisages, in particular, that in accordance with the draft of the new

Constitution, the legislative assembly will exist instead of the Supreme Council in the Republic of Crimea.

The decree "On the Procedure for Applying the Crimean Republic's Present Constitution in the Period When the Referendum on the Crimean Republic's New Constitution is Being Prepared and Held": The Crimean Republic's Constitution is valid in those parts where it does not contradict the edicts of the Crimean Republic's president.

An instruction has been issued, in accordance with which a commission has been set up to resolve issues of efficient use of the personnel potential of the former Supreme Council of Crimea. Yuriy Zyryanov, chairman of Crimea's Supreme Council Standing Commission for the State System and Local Self-Government, has been appointed to head this commission, and Yuriy Razhonyuk has been appointed his deputy. It is interesting that these deputies are in the anti-presidential "Republic" group.

Meshkov on Conflict With Parliament

LD1109074894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0638 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Simferopol September 11 TASS—Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov suspended the operation of the legislature of the Crimean Republic, a constituent part of Ukraine, and of local councils.

Speaking on local radio and television, he announced his decrees under which he assumed all powers in the republic.

Meshkov noted that a draft of a new constitution would be compiled, which will be offered for a referendum on next april 9. Following this, elections to the republican legislature will be set within three months and bodies of local self-rule formed.

Meshkov said that the present legislature "does not deserve" to conduct legislative activities, since it was "seized by a corrupted group".

"The parliament took the road of confrontation against legal power, consequently, the will of the people," he said in an exclusive interview with the ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI newspaper on Saturday.

"Without asking for opinion of the 2.5-million population of the Crimea, 84 deputies decided to make an amendment to the law on president, long ago adopted, striking out from it that it is president who is the head of state," Meshkov stressed.

"They decided to divest me of powers formalised in the Constitution and given to me by the people at the elections. In actual fact, the parliament started direct confrontation between the two arms of government."

Describing the present developments as struggle for power, the Crimean leader stressed that many legislators disliked the "Moscow", as they say, government of Saburov which does not want to make a sinecure for parliament out of the cabinet.

This notwithstanding the fact that cabinet has not been formed up to this time through the fault of the present parliament.

"Power in localities is also held by old executives who must be urgently replaced. They offer resistance through parliament and boycott presidential decrees. Besides, clan relations and corruption thrive in the Crimea, war is in progress for spheres of influence in the economy.

"This is especially true of the southern coast where the interests of numerous mafia families converge. They are waging struggle for influence in parliament," Meshkov underlined.

The aggravation of the situation in the Crimea is "a result of political gambling and ambitions of certain forces rather than objective circumstances and trends," said Vladimir Litvin, assistant to the Ukrainian president on the domestic policy, in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Friday.

Kiev and Simferopol "have no serious problems either in the economic or cultural spheres", he added. Litvin noted that "it is necessary to be guided by realities of life when assessing the Crimean problem".

Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Crimean President Meshkov held a meeting in the Crimea on Friday. It was held behind closed doors, ITAR-TASS learnt from Vyacheslav Lebedev, head of the Crimean president's press centre.

Earlier, Kuchma said that he would not permit the Crimean confrontation to develop into a violent conflict.

Meshkov Calls Parliament's Actions 'Coup'

LD0909121594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1022 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] "What happened in Crimea is a coup," Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov said on local television Thursday night, referring to the September 7 parliament decision reducing the presidential powers to those of chief executive.

Meshkov emphasized that the coup was staged by his own Russia Party.

The Crimean parliament amended the legislation on the Crimean presidency stripping Meshkov of his powers as head of state. He cannot now appoint heads of local administrations.

Meshkov told his audience that he would carry out his duties as head of state.

He promised to eliminate crime in Crimea. He said that the law enforcement agencies would investigate the links between the mob and executive officials.

Meshkov also emphasized his intention to press for implementation of the privatization decree and reform of the agriculture and economy.

He described the Sevastopol Council's resolution on the Russian status of the city as a revolutionary venture which could be admired but would not be easy to put into practice.

Meshkov on Plot To Undermine Crimean Statehood

LD1109172294 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 11 Sep 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] This morning the Crimean Supreme Soviet building was cordoned off by reinforced ranks of police. Neither deputies or journalists are being allowed into the building. This action by the law and order bodies was preceded by a speech on local radio by Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov.

[Begin Meshkov recording] Political forces that have lost the confidence of the Crimean people have planned and attempted to carry out actions aimed at destroying Crimean statehood by creating a situation of chaos and confrontation between the branches of state authority in the Crimea. These forces wanted to seize control of the government, everything that belongs to the republic and people of the Crimea. With the most elementary methods they were able to establish control over part of the body of deputies by using the disaffection of some of the deputies stripped by me of their rights to privileges. Finally, there was a group of deputies that simply did not understand the consequences of the decisions made. They did not realize their dangerous and destructive force, that they were directed against the interests of the state, the economy, and against the laws and rights and interests of citizens, in the name of creating the most favorable conditions for the enriching of criminal structures. Fighting for their seats and privileges, part of the body of deputies has lost its sense of proportion. Deputies have forgotten their election manifestos. They have forgotten who elected them to the Supreme Soviet and why. [end recording]

Meskhov Creates Constitutional Council

LD1109174594 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1620 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Simferopol, 11 Sep—In accordance with a decree by President Yuriy Meshkov on the procedure for preparing a draft constitution of the Republic of Crimea, a constitutional council is being formed which will be composed of representatives of civil and political and national cultural associations. Lyubov Yeliseyeva-Dora, minister of justice of the Republic of Crimea, who also heads the Ukrainian Ministry of Justice's main justice directorate in Crimea, has been appointed head of the Constitutional Council. The Constitutional Council has been instructed to present a new draft constitution to the president by 9 December 1994.

Meshkov Asks Supreme Council To Attend Talks

LD1209101494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0757 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov, who issued an edict Saturday night suspending the activities of the republic's Supreme Council, today asked parliament to hold talks with him on ways of settling the conflict between the executive and legislative branches of power.

But Viktor Minin, head of the State Affairs Service of the Republic of Crimea, told ITAR-TASS that Yuriy Meshkov's offer of talks is conditional on the Supreme Council rescinding its amendments to the Crimean Constitution and to the law on the president. These amendments restrict the powers of the republican president. Furthermore, while offering to hold talks with parliament, Meshkov does not intend to allow the Supreme Council to resume its activities before the referendum of Crimean citizens on the adoption of a new Constitution, which is scheduled for spring next year.

According to the head of the State Affairs Service, Yuriy Meshkov intends to invite Crimean parliamentary deputies who support the republican president to join the Constitutional Council which is responsible for drafting the republic's new basic law.

According to the same source, the Crimean Republic's Procurator Valentin Kuptsov today asked parliamentary deputies, who for the second day are holding an emergency session at the republican procuracy, to leave the building.

Viktor Minin also disclosed that both yesterday and today Yuriy Meshkov had several telephone conversations with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, and the two sides reached "complete mutual understanding."

Meshkov Dismisses Local Government Officials

LD1009192994 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] In a decree Yuriy Meshkov, president of Crimea, dismissed from their posts representatives of executive committees of a number of towns and rayons. Heads of administrations have been appointed in their place. Half of these new leaders are deputies in Crimea's Supreme Council. The decree was signed one day before the parliament deprived the president of the right to appoint the heads of administrative bodies by making additions and changes to the law on the president. The new presidential decree contradicts Crimean legislation, stated Serhiy Tsekov, chairman of the republic's Supreme Council.

Local Power Bodies Support Parliament's Move

LD0909190694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1510 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Simferopol [no dateline as received]—Members of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea held a conference today, attended by leaders of city and rayon councils, to discuss the socioeconomic situation on the peninsula, the progress of preparations for the winter, and the situation that took shape after the appointment of heads of administrations in a number of cities and rayons of Crimea by Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov. The leaders of the city and rayon councils voiced their support to the Supreme Council of Crimea, which brought the law "On the President of the Republic of Crimea" in line with the Constitution by its decision.

Serhiy Kunitsyn, chairman of the Krasnoperekopsk Council of People's Deputies, pointed out: "The structure of the government is imperfect. The sessions connected with issues of preparation for the winter are held in the absence of chairmen of local councils. Issues of self-government are considered without our participation. If the Supreme Council fails to take measures, in several months's time we will face a catastrophe. There is a Constitution and the law on local councils, and we must act in compliance with the Constitution and the law."

As Vyacheslav Balla, member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea, chairman of the Standing Commission for Issues of Economy, Budgetary, and Financial Policy, said, "the situation in Crimea is changing from bad to worse every day. The grain of the new harvest has not yet been paid for. This winter will be much more difficult for Crimea than last year's."

Serhiy Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea, said: "The Supreme Council will prevent diarchy. We will help you, when necessary, despite the fact that we ourselves feel pressure from quite an unexpected side."

Today, the Presidium of the Supreme Council of Crimea is to hold a session behind closed doors to continue discussing President Yuriy Meshkov's decision on appointing heads of local administrations.

Meshkov Spokesman Rules Out Violence

LD1209092194 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2120 GMT 12 Sep 94

["Exclusive interview with Vyacheslav Lebedev, the Crimean president's press secretary"—UNIAR subhead]

[Text] Simferopol, 11 Sep—QUESTION: Please comment on the latest events in Crimea and the statement by Serhiy Tsekov [Crimean Supreme Council chairman] calling Yuriy Meshkov's actions anti-constitutional.

ANSWER: The first anti-constitutional actions were those by the Supreme Council. Three days ago the Supreme Council deprived the president of powers to lead the executive authority and renewed the pattern for governing Crimea, which existed in [Mykola] Bahrov's [Crimean Supreme Council speaker under Ukrainian President Kravchuk] time, and renewed Soviet power in all its glory. Yuriy Meshkov could have got out of the constitutional crisis in two ways—either by giving away powers to the Supreme Council and being a "British Queen" [figurehead] or by renewing his powers in full.

QUESTION: Is it possible that the situation will go the "Russian way" and end in bloodshed?

ANSWER: This is ruled out. Contention has been going on all day and there have been no excesses. Everything is calm.

QUESTION: What is the attitude of the power-wielding structures to this?

ANSWER: They are simply maintaining law and order and are not taking any part. Kiev has appointed, with Meshkov's agreement, a new head of Ukraine's internal affairs directorate in Crimea, and also a new head of the "Krym" [Crimea] television and radio company.

QUESTION: Has there been a reaction on the part of the Black Sea Fleet?

ANSWER: No, there is no need to interfere in this matter.

QUESTION: There was information that during the meeting between the president of Crimea and the Crimean Republic's procurator the latter called the president's actions anti-constitutional? [as received]

ANSWER: In the morning the procurator did truly call the actions anti-constitutional, but some time after 1600, when it became known that President Kuchma was not interfering in Crimea's affairs, and when he [the procurator] found out about the pre-history of this matter, he, so to speak, regretted that he had been in a hurry [to make an assessment] and as I understand it he was intending to go home altogether. He recognized that the Constitution which was restored is anti-constitutional. Depriving the president of rights in the last three days was also anti-constitutional.

QUESTION: What is the attitude of the Crimean Tatars to this?

ANSWER: Some of their leaders are at this Supreme Council session, while some of them believe that the time has come when it is necessary to support Meshkov, establish new relations and begin a constructive conversation.

QUESTION: Will actions be taken to suspend the session, which is currently under way?

ANSWER: What for? They can gather where they want and when they want. What Yuriy Meshkov did makes it possible to retreat from the differences, which had accumulated. By his decrees he removes all problems and enters normal legal civilized relations with Kiev.

Kuchma, Meshkov Discuss Crimean Situation

LD0909192894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1824 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] On Friday Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, on vacation in Crimea, met with Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov.

The leaders discussed the situation in Crimea following the latest decision of the Crimean parliament to strip the Crimean president of his powers as head of state, Crimea's Minister for State Affairs Viktor Minin reported in an interview with Interfax-Ukraine.

In his words, Meshkov believes that "it is necessary to try to force a solution to this conflict by means of negotiations." "Under the present situation the Ukrainian president put his weight behind the Crimean president rather than its Supreme Soviet," Minin said.

Today, Minin said, Yuriy Meshkov again tried to make arrangements to negotiate with the parliament on normalization of relations. "There has been no reaction from the Supreme Soviet yet. The conflict is deepening," Minin said.

Our Interfax-Ukraine correspondent reports that the same day Meshkov had a conversation with the head of the presidential administration Dmitriy Tabachnik and Ukraine's Interior Minister Vladimir Radchenko, who came to Crimea with the Ukrainian president. Interfax-Ukraine has learned that the parties discussed the problem of the status of Crimea's Interior Ministry, also behind closed doors.

On the evening of September 8 the Ukrainian president came to Crimea to resume his vacation which was interrupted due to the visit by the chairman of the Chinese People's Republic. Kuchma spends his vacation at a government dacha near Simeiz.

Kuchma Issues Statement on Events

LD1209124794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1123 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By UKRINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Kiev September 12 TASS—A statement of the Ukrainian president was circulated in the mass media on Monday. The statement says:

"The political events in the Crimea, connected with the aggravation of contradictions between legislative and executive authoritites over the definition and separation of powers, and the fact that some legislative acts of the Republic of the Crimea are not in keeping with the Ukrainian Constitution lead to a situation of instability. "Actions of both sides, particularly in the recent days, jeopardise stability, security and civic accord".

"I call on the president of the Republic of the Crimea and deputies of the Crimean Supreme Soviet to show utmost political wisdom and balance and find a most constructive and acceptable solution, within the limits of the Constitution and laws of Ukraine and the Republic of the Crimea, to problems that arose during the exercise of power".

Kuchma Calls for 'Civilized Solution'

LD1109130394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1240 GMT 11 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev September 11 TASS— Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma issued a statement on the latest developments on the Crimean peninsula, which has just been broadcast by the national radio.

"The Crimean events were prompted by differences between the legislative and executive branches of government. The current actions of the Crimean authorities are destabilizing the situation on the peninsula and in the whole of Ukraine. They pose a threat to public security and accord", the statement said.

Ukraine's president called upon both sides to find a civilized solution to the existing problems within the boundaries of the Ukrainian and Crimean Constitutions.

Kuchma Reportedly Favors 'Zero Option'

LD1209124694 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1100 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Simferopol—Crimea's Supreme Council session began its work on 12th September belatedly because of the lack of a quorum. Viktor Mezhak, deputy Supreme Council chairman, informed the deputies about the meeting with [Crimean President] Yuriy Meshkov. According to him, Crimea's president had emphasised that all of his actions had been agreed with the leadership of Ukraine and Russia, and he also said that [Ukrainian President] Leonid Kuchma had expressed himself in favour of the "zero option", which had first been mentioned by Viktor Minin, head of the [Crimean] state affairs service. The essence of this option boils down to the revocation of all of the decrees, which have been adopted until now by the Supreme Council and president and which contradict each other. According to Viktor Mezhak, "the president's actions resemble provocation. The plundering of Crimea is continuing and will continue by the endeavours of both Ukraine and Russia." Personally he sees the way out in returning the Supreme Council building [to the deputies] and arresting the president.

The appeal by Yuriy Meshkov to the deputies, which had been passed to the session, proposes that "the forcible deprivation of the president, elected by the people, of power is not allowed", that the situation, which has arisen, be discussed, and that it be sorted out "which of the deputies has taken the course of war with the president, and also a return to the legal situation of 7th September." (In the conversation with Viktor Mezhak the option of returning to the legal situation of 10th May was also mentioned.) After these demands are implemented the president will agree to enter talks with parliament.

A UNIAN correspondent reported on 12th September that the planned sitting of the Presidium of Crimea's Supreme Court could not start work because of the lack of a quorum—the judges are on holiday.

Unidentified persons in brown uniforms came to the Supreme Council building in the night. According to rumours, these are Cossacks in disguise. However, their affiliation to the latter has not yet been established.

In an interview with a UNIAN correspondent, Vitaliy Kyrychenko, acting head of the main internal affairs directorate of Ukraine's internal affairs ministry in Crimea, said: "There will not be a Karabakh. We will bide our time and maintain calm." To the question of whether specific measures will be taken to open to access the premises of the radio, television and "Tavryda" publishing-house, Vitaliy Kyrychenko replied that such actions are not being planned at the moment.

Kuchma's Press Secretary on Crimean Situation

LD1109193794 Moscow NTV in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Sep 94

[From the "Itogi" program]

[Text] [Correspondent Aleksandr Tkachenko] The administration of the Ukrainian president was the only body in Kiev today that commented on the fight between the powers in Simferopol. In an interview for the Itogi program, Mykhaylo Doroshenko, Leonid Kuchma's press secretary, said:

[Begin recording] [Doroshenko] The Ukrainian president gave a statement concerning the events in the Crimea, and noted that the recent actions of both sides carry a threat to public safety and to stability and civil accord in society. The Ukrainian president called on both the Crimean president and the Supreme Soviet of Crimea to show maximum political wisdom and self-possession, and to find a mutually agreeable and constructive solution to the problems.

[Tkachenko] How does the president evaluate the actions of President Meshkov and the Supreme Soviet?

[Doroshenko] Illegal decisions were made in the last few days by both sides, so the conflict that has developed can be called a conflict in the top echelons, founded not on any objective basis but on the basis of political games and intrigues, and connected with the personalities of the two Crimean leaders.

[Tkachenko] The Ukrainian president is in the Crimea at present. Does he intend to do anything to prevent the situation?

[Doroshenko] The president is in the Crimea, he is watching the development of events closely, and if necessary will take the appropriate measures.

[Tkachenko] According to your information, is the situation under control at present?

[Doroshenko] The situation is under control and on the whole the situation in Simferopol is calm, and in the Crimea as well. [end recording]

[Tkachenko] Practically on the eve of Meshkov's edict and the resolution of the Presidium of the Crimean Supreme Soviet, Aleksandr Moroz, speaker of the Supreme Council, was still hoping for tolerance from both sides and believed that the Constitutional Court could propose a solution to the situation that had developed. Sergey (Golovatyy), one of the leaders of the Reform deputies group, said that the Crimean Supreme Soviet, by restricting Meshkov's constitutional rights, had started to return closer to the Ukrainian constitutional field. It is interesting that practically on the eve of this small coup, Leonid Kuchma met Meshkov in the Crimea and Aleksandr Moroz met the leadership of the Crimean Supreme Soviet in Kiev.

The decision of the Sevastopol and Crimean powers concerning the Russian status of the city evokes much stronger emotions. Opinions are synonymous on this point—the resolution of the Sevastopol City Council must be revoked. It is obviously not in the interest of the Kiev politicians today to take sides with any of the parties in the conflict for power in the Crimea.

It may happen that the conflict of powers in the Crimea will become a peculiar training range for the Kiev politicians.

Aleksandr Tkachenko, the Nova Mova TV company, for the Itogi program.

Spokesman Denies Kuchma Talked With Meshkov

LD1009224494 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2200 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Simferopol, 10 Sep—In an interview for Crimean radio Dmytro Tabachnyk, head of the Ukrainian president's administration, denied a report that the president of Ukraine had arrived in Crimea for talks with the president of Crimea: "What talks? Leonid Danylovych [Kuchma] came with his wife and grandchild to rest. Although the president did entirely bury himself in papers," the head of the administration said. "Leonid Kuchma's point of view on the conflict between branches of Crimean power is reflected in the statement by Doroshenko, the Ukrainian president's press secretary, which says the president is concerned and will not allow this clash to turn into violent conflicts threatening the life and safety of citizens and violating the constitutional procedure in Ukraine. This is the standpoint of the president of Ukraine," Dmytro Tabachnyk emphasized.

Official: Kuchma Approved Meshkov Move

LD1109140794 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 11 Sep 94

["Exclusive" telephone interview with Viktor Minin, Crimean minister of state affairs, by Yevgeniy Novikov, correspondent in Simferopol, on 11 September—recorded]

[Text] [Minin] Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov issued this edict with the agreement of the president of Ukraine. It is the result of a constitutional crisis, a crisis of power which has emerged through the fault of the Crimean parliament. President Meshkov has been trying for a whole month now to avoid a repetition of what happened in Russia. Parliament's recent decisions practically removed all executive power from the president of Crimea.

[Novikov] Why did parliament do this?

[Minin] It's to do with ... [pauses] Some deputies do not understand that there are deputies backed by criminal groups and that attempts are being made to seize executive power and remove the government or bring it under their control. Third, perhaps, is the power struggle.

[Novikov] Viktor (?Mikhailovich), what do you think? Did the Crimean parliament set itself this goal of limiting the president's power right from the beginning, or did this idea emerge later as a result of various developments?

[Minin] No, even before the Supreme Council session, at a meeting with the Russian Bloc I heard the idea put forward of setting up a parliamentary republic.

[Novikov] What steps can the Supreme Council take, in your view?

[Minin] Some of the deputies have been to see Meshkov and have offered to help normalize the situation. There was also the deputation of [Crimean Supreme Council Chairman] Tsekov. Tsekov has spoken to Ukraine President Leonid Kuchma and Kuchma has asked Meshkov to receive Tsekov so that relations can be normalized. There are no rallies or anything on the streets. Security has been stepped up in the areas near the parliament and a number of towns have already expressed support for (?Yuriy Mikhailovich)—Kerch, Simferopol, and others. The Supreme Council is of course trying to show that it is supported by Kiev and to get the people on their side, but they have so far not received any support.

[Novikov] It's likely, however, that on 14 September there will be a session of Crimea's Supreme Council.

[Minin] It will not take place because under this edict the work of the whole council is deemed suspended until the adoption of a new Constitution and new elections.

[Novikov] This implies that the president spoke to Leonid Kuchma before he signed the edict suspending the Supreme Council?

[Minin] Yes, the day before yesterday. Talks went on for a whole four hours and today there were four telephone conversations with the president of Ukraine.

[Novikov] Do you think the disbandment of Crimea's Supreme Council will weaken the position of the Crimean Republic on the eve of the signing of the treaty on friendship and cooperation with Russia?

[Minin] I don't think so, because we need a definite, clear position—this is fairly critical, and I think that if now... [pauses] Let's say, you can't just do that, he was being forced to resign and we would have had to hold talks with the Russian Bloc, which is not perhaps capable, at this stage, of entering into constructive dialogue.

Meshkov Aide Believes in Kuchma's Support

LD1009183494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Simferopol [no dateline as received]—In an interview with a UNIAN correspondent today, Vyacheslav Lebedev, press secretary to Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov, said that relations between the presidents of Ukraine and Crimea were very good. "Leonid Kuchma himself is suffering because of the lack of power and an administration system, and therefore, he supports Yuriy Meshkov in his striving to create a strict vertical line in the administrative structure," Vyacheslav Lebedev said.

As is well known, the Crimean president has signed and edict on appointing leaders of state executive power in the rayons and towns of the Crimean Republic, which Crimean Supreme Council Chairman Serhiy Tsekov has criticized.

Vyacheslav Lebedev expressed certainty that Crimea's present parliament does not meet today's demands and that the fact that Crimea's Constitution is constantly changing shows that there will not be any stabilization in Crimea under such conditions. Vyacheslav Lebedev is convinced that the president and Supreme Council of Crimea will defend their positions and at the same time, delay a resolution. The president does not believe it necessary to put the matter to a referendum for the moment, and the parliament understands that if it comes to a referendum, then the matter will not be resolved in its favor.

Replying to the UNIAN correspondent's question about whether the issue of other power-wielding structures will be raised after the fate of the Crimean militia is resolved, Vyacheslav Lebedev noted that Crimea should have its own security service, which would be subordinate to the Crimean president and would work for Crimea. In Vyacheslav Lebedev's opinion, the military presence of Ukraine and Russia in Crimea should also be reduced, including the Black Sea Fleet. The National Guard in Crimea should be staffed by Crimeans and should also be subordinate to the Crimean president.

Crimea's Dependence on Ukraine Stressed

LD1009175994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1713 GMT 10 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Kiev September 10 TASS—The aggravated situation in the Crimea has both political and economic reasons, head of the Ukrainian president's economic department Vladimir Kuznetsov told ITAR-TASS today.

"Unsuccessful Ukrainian reforms encouraged centrifugal strivings of our regional leaders, both in the Crimea and in eastern Ukraine," said the adviser. As a human being, the official understands the statement of Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov that the Crimea will "get out from under the Ukrainian economy's debris."

"I can also understand Crimean residents who see that an average Russian income is larger than the Ukrainian one. However, the Crimea went the wrong way when fully legalized currency legislation and resumed exchange tenders. The Crimea is now reaping negative fruit as one should not mechanically involve in the Russian free market," said the adviser.

In his opinion, the Crimean politicians should not forget about economic dependency of the Crimea on Ukraine. "The peninsula depends on Ukrainian electricity and water supply, and it is an inseparable part of the country," he added.

Parliament Head: Meshkov's Move 'Misunderstanding'

LD1109093494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0839 GMT 11 Sep 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchikov for TASS]

[Text] Simferopol, 11 Sep—Power changed hands in Crimea overnight. The parliament building was cordoned off and the main entrance sealed. An order by President Yuriy Meshkov has been posted on it: "Pursuant to the edict 'On the Organization of Governance in the Crimea Republic During Preparation for and Conduct of a Referendum on the Draft Constitution of the Crimea Republic,' deputies and secretariat staff members are prohibited from entering the building of the former Supreme Council. Entry is to be by personal permission of the head of the presidential service and in his absence by permission of the head of the presidential bodyguard".

This morning on the radio Crimeans heard a speech by Yuriy Meshkov, in which he read out his edicts disbanding the Supreme Council and local councils, stripping deputies at all level of their mandates, drafting a new constitution for the republic, and setting up a Constitutional Council tasked with drawing up a draft for a new constitution by 9 December this year and submitting it to a referendum by 9 April 1995. According to the president, elections to a legislative assembly and local authorities should be held not later than three months after the referendum.

Those parts of the current Constitution that do not contravene the president's edicts will remain in force until the new constitution is approved, Yuriy Meshkov said. He also read out an address to the people, in which he accused parliament of attempting to usurp power, turn Crimea into a haven for criminals, and use the Constitution for its own narrow and selfish ends.

An hour after Meshkov's announcement, deputies began gathering outside parliament. Commenting on what has taken place, Refat Chubarov, the chairman of the Crimean Tatar deputies' faction, said, "The president flagrantly violated the Constitution and Ukrainian law today and has set himself not only against the parliament but against all the people of Crimea. I think that, unless the parliament finds a way out of this situation in the next few days, the institution of presidency and Meshkov himself will also not exist [as received] for much longer in any event, because Ukraine will intervene, and rightly so."

The presidium of the parliament held an emergency meeting at the republic's Interior Ministry. Supreme Council Chairman Sergey Tsekov told UKRINFORM-TASS afterward: "The president has violated the Constitution of the republic. We are now taking measures to remove this misunderstanding in the normal way. I think it is a misunderstanding."

Tsekov Says Meshkov Unwilling To Hold Talks

LD1209132194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Serhiy Tsekov, speaker of the Crimean parliament, has accused President Yuriy Meshkov of being unwilling to hold talks. Tsekov told INTERFAX that in response to the Supreme Council's proposal to meet, Meshkov put forward an unacceptable demand—that all Supreme Council decisions should be abolished. All attempts by mediators—Crimea's senior officials—to make the president agree to a meeting with the parliamentary speaker have failed. Tsekov said the Supreme Council deputies are currently supplying the public with information in hope that the majority of the republic's citizens will eventually take parliament's side. [passage omitted]

Parliament Expects Kiev To Restore Constitution

LD1209112794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1033 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The Crimean parliament expects Ukrainian authorities will take actions to restore the Crimean Constitution. This statement was made in an exclusive interview with Interfax-Ukraine on Monday morning by chairman of the Crimean parliament Serhiy Tsekov.

It is enough to qualify the president's activities as unconstitutional, said Tsekov.

Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov, by his decrees made public on Sunday, suspended the activities of the republic's parliament and local councils. Parliament deputies on Sunday were not allowed into the parliament building and the special session took place in the building of the republic's prosecutor's office.

Tsekov expressed satisfaction about his conversation with Chairman of Ukrainian Parliament Oleksandr Moroz on August [as received] 11.

Tsekov said that Meshkov had violated the Ukrainian Constitution when he dissolved the regional councils. If the president does not stop at this, he said, there will be no parliament or president.

He said that the Crimean parliament ordered Ukrainian law-enforcement bodies to disarm the personnel of the president's security service. However, he said, acting Chief of the Crimean Interior Department Vitaliy Kirichenko is not up to the task.

Tsekov fears lest other armed units from CIS countries along with criminal elements take the side of Meshkov. Unless serious steps are taken, he said, an armed conflict could be ignited.

At the same time, Tsekov believes that in the current situation such an outcome is unlikely. The parliament will not agree to this, he said, but it will not yield either.

We will achieve that the parliament is obeyed, even if it is not housed in its building, said Tsekov. He said that on Monday deputies will attempt to restore the constitutional system in the Crimean Republic.

Parliament Intends To Continue Work 12 Sep

LD1209112594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1033 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] The Crimean parliament, whose activities were suspended on Sunday by decrees of the republic's president Yuriy Meshkov, intends to continue work on Monday morning, INTERFAX-UKRAINE was told by Valeriy Astakhov, chief of the TV company "Krym".

He said that the parliament will hold its session at the prosecutor's office because the parliament building is blocked by the president's personal guards. Astakhov said that the president's guards also control the entrance to the Crimean television center. The adjacent streets are patrolled by police.

Deputy Crimean Interior Minister, Colonel Ivan Polyakov, told INTERFAX-UKRAINE that the police in such a situation are to ensure order.

Astakhov also said that there are no disturbances in Simferopol and it is calm in the streets. He said that there are no enforced police patrols nor military hardware in the city, transport is working as normal.

Deputies Adopt Resolution on Parliament, Media

LD1109175094 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1620 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Simferopol, 11 Sep—The presidium of Crimea's Supreme Council has adopted a resolution which obliges Crimea's procuracy and law enforcement bodies to take measures to ensure the normal work of Crimea's Supreme Council: To unblock the Supreme Council's work and the work of some of the mass media, which at the moment are being protected by representatives of the presidential security service and interstate relations, which was abolished by the Crimean Supreme Council presidium about two weeks ago.

A session of Crimea's Supreme Council is currently being held in the procuracy building. There are two rallies near the procuracy building: A communist rally against the president and a rally organized by the Russian Society of Crimea in support of the president. Colonel Fesenko, head of the central rayon branch of Simferopol's internal affairs body, is in charge of law and order.

Deputies Hold Emergency Meeting

LD1109161894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1451 GMT 11 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Gordeyev]

[Text] Simferopol September 11 TASS—The lawmakers of the Crimea's local parliament dissolved overnight by Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov's decree are now gathering in an emergency meeting.

As of 16:00 Moscow time [1200 GMT] on Sunday, as many as 60 out of the 98 local legislators had been gathered at the building of the Crimean prosecutor's office, where the disbanded parliament has to hold the meeting as the parliamentary building is blocked by presidential guards, Vadim Mordashov, a member of the parliament's Commission for Legislation, told TASS. Thus, the lawmakers have already mustered the required quorum.

According to preliminary information, the dissolved legislature is expected to issue a protest against the move of President Meshkov, whom the deputies accuse of violating the Ukrainian and Crimean Constitutions, as well as the law "On the Crimea's President".

The talks held earlier in the day between a group of local lawmakers headed by Parliament Speaker Sergey Tsekov and the Crimean president produced no results.

Further on Deputies' Emergency Meeting

LD1109200894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1939 GMT 11 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[Text] Simferopol, 12 Sep—The decree of the Crimean president has no legal force and is not be to implemented by government bodies, officials, and public organizations. This decision was made at an emergency sitting of the Crimean parliament held this evening.

The Crimean parliament, the resignation of which was announced by the republican president, used the building of the Crimean Procuracy as its headquarters. The Supreme Soviet has asked the Crimean Supreme Court to draw a conclusion on the constitutionality of recent presidential decrees. It adopted a resolution to ensure that law and order is maintained in the republic. The Supreme Soviet has asked top officials of the internal affairs bodies to ensure that the Constitution of the Crimean Republic and the current legislation are being observed on the republican territory, that deputies be immediately allowed to begin work in their administrative building, that communications facilities, television, radio, publishing and printing houses be put under protection and that normal work of the mass media bodies be ensured.

The emergency sesssion will continue its work tomorrow.

Presidium To Discuss Situation

LD1209091094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0843 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev September 12 ITAR-TASS—The governing presidium of the Ukrainian parliament is meeting in Kiev on Monday [12 September] afternoon to consider the situation in the Crimea following the suspension of the legislative assembly in that peninsular republic within Ukraine, the press service of the Ukrainian parliament told ITAR-TASS.

After the meeting, Ukrainian Parliament Chairman Oleksandr Moroz is expected to make a statement for the press, the service said.

Supreme Council Begins Session on Meshkov Appeal

LD1209144794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1405 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] At around 14:00 [1000 GMT] this afternoon, the Crimean parliament continued its session with considering the appeal of Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov. Meshkov proposed lawmakers return to the legal situation existing before September 7, 1994.

On September 7 the Crimean parliament decided to limit the powers of the Crimean president, preserving his powers only as head of the executive power.

Meshkov urged parliamentarians to discuss the situation and to find out "which of you, proceeding from which interests" had decided to wage a "war against the legitimate president."

Meshkov said he is ready to begin talks on overcoming the constitutional crisis.

Supreme Council Asks Meshkov To Attend Session

LD1109121094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1120 GMT 11 Sep 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchikov for TASS]

[Text] Simferopol, 11 Sep— An as yet incomplete session of the Crimean Supreme Council, dissolved last night under a decree by President Yuriy Meshkov, is taking place in the building of the republic's procuracy. The deputies sent a delegation to talk with Yuriy Meshkov. Afterwards, Parliament speaker Sergey Tsekov told journalists the delegation had proposed to the president that the blockade of the Supreme Council building be lifted and that a closed parliament session be held with the president to find a way out of the situation together. According to Sergey Tsekov, Yuriy Meshkov replied: "I cannot decide this alone; I have to hold consultations."

Sergey Tsekov added that he had formed the impression that, by appealing to the people, the president was attempting to incite a section of the population and cause mass disorders.

An extraordinary session of the Crimean parliament will take place this evening. It is not yet known where it will be held.

Parliamentary Group Begins Talks With Meshkov

LD1109142994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1223 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] The delegation of the Crimean parliament led by speaker Sergey Tsekov started on Sunday the talks with

Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov who suspended the activities of councils of all levels on the republic's territory.

The delegation was formed on the initiative of Yuriy Meshkov at the extended meeting of the parliament's presidium in the building of the Crimean Interior Ministry on the same day. Taking part were 37 out of 98 deputies of the Crimean parliament, reports Interfax-Ukraine.

Chairman of the Crimean parliament, Sergey Tsekov, told journalists that by order of Yuriy Meshkov he was deprived of bodyguards, and that studies of the parliament leaders were sealed up.

"The president committed actions which violate the laws of the Crimean Republic and Ukraine," said Tsekov asking journalists to call on the Crimean citizens to observe calm.

Tsekov said that he spoke by telephone with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma who is spending vacations in the Crimea, but he refused to say the results of the conversation.

The prosecutor of the autonomous republic, Valentin Kuptsov, told journalists that the presidential decree cannot be obeyed because it violates Article 5, Provision 20 of the law "On President of the Crimean Republic".

According to the provision, "the president of the Crimean Republic has no right to suspend the activities of the Crimean parliament".

The presidium also decided to convene on Sunday at 5 P.M. a special session of the Crimean parliament. It is likely to be held in one of the rooms of the Crimean Prosecutor's office.

Deputies Enter TV Center, Urge Defiance

LD1109175694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Our correspondent in Simferopol, Yevgeniy Novikov, has just reported that at 2015 [1615 GMT] Mikhail Bakharev, chairman of the Crimean parliament's permanent commission, accompanied by a colleague, penetrated the television center and switched off the Russian radio channels. The deputies made an address on the first channel of the local cable broadcasting system. They appealed to the people of the peninsula and law-enforcement bodies of the Republic of Crime to defy the lawfully elected president, Yuriy Meshkov. They justified this by his, I quote, anticonstitutional actions against the Crimean Supreme Council.

Official Government Statement on Crimea Situation

LD1109185894 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] We have received a statement by Ukraine's Procurator General's Office, Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs, and Ukraine's Security Service:

In connection with the mutual relations between Crimea's legislative and executive authorities becoming complicated, the Procurator General's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Security Service of Ukraine report:

The situation in Crimea remains calm. The peninsula's life is in its normal mode. The struggle between authorities did not affect labor collectives or the population as a whole, with the exception of individual politicized groups of citizens. Small rallies of supporters of the president of Crimea and the republic's Supreme Council took place in Simferopol. Cases of violation of civic order connected with this situation have not been registered in populated areas.

However, the said contention between the sides could have dangerous consequences. The Procurator General's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and Security Service of Ukraine assess the actions directed at not allowing people's deputies of Crimea into the Supreme Council building and at blocking the television as unlawful. Threats and practical actions by the conflicting sides directed at drawing employees of the law enforcement bodies into the political contention and at using force to settle the conflict especially put one on one's guard. Such actions could cause this local conflict to spread and have unforeseen consequences.

In the situation that has arisen, the Procurator General's Office, the Security Service, and Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine state that the law enforcement bodies in Crimea have received instructions not to allow any violent actions threatening the life and health of citizens or the use of employees of the law enforcement bodies for unlawful actions. The law enforcement bodies in Crimea are faithful to the law. They will strictly guard civic and constitutional order.

Situation 'Calm' in Crimea

LD1209054694 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0408 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Excerpts] [Announcer] We have on the line now Anatoliy Polonskiy, Ukrainian radio correspondent in the Crimea, and we'll talk to him about the latest events in the Crimea. The first question, colleague, what does Simferopol look like, what is the situation in the city?

[Polonskiy] Well you know, thank goodness, everything here is calm now. An hour ago I was travelling by trolley bus and I didn't even hear any talk about what had happened. It's quiet, too, near the disgraced Crimean parliament, where the residence of President Meshkov is also situated. And I didn't even see a single militia man, let alone a reinforced militia detachment. It seems that many people don't even know that there has been a state coup in the Crimea—a coup of local significance. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Anatoliy, I have a question: Do you have any information about the latest actions of Meshkov and the parliament?

[Polonskiy] No, not yet. Around nine o'clock I (?managed to talk) to Viktor Mezhak, deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea. You know he is a comrade-in-arms, a personal friend of Yuriy Meshkov. Their relations are difficult just now although Viktor Mezhak may be in the building and may talk to the president. Incidentally, while working here yesterday evening he also met Yuriy Meshkov although correspondents didn't manage to find out about that. I promised to phone [word indistinct] and to find something out. So far there isn't any information about how the situation is developing, about what is happening in the White House [parliament]. I went to the fifth floor, which is at the disposal of the president [words indistinct]—work is obviously going on there, something is being prepared—but what, we don't know yet.

Procurator Says Meshkov's Actions 'Illegal'

LD1109113394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1105 GMT 11 Sep 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchikov for TASS]

[Text] Simferopol, 11 Sep—Valentin Kuptsov, procurator of the Republic of Crimea, stated today that the actions of Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov, who has dissolved the republic's parliament, are illegal, as they contravene Article 5 of the law on "the president." The law says that the Crimean president does not have the right to dissolve the Crimean Supreme Council or to suspend its actions.

Constitutional Court Set Up in Crimea

LD0909165394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1418 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] The Crimean parliament has passed the Constitutional Court Bill in second reading.

The Constitutional Court will have the right to rule on the impossibility for the president of the Republic of Crimea to carry on as the chief executive or his incapability of doing so.

Under the bill, if is asked by the parliament, the Constitutional Court will hand down a ruling on whether the president has violated the Constitution or the legislation.

The court will also hand down rulings on the constitutionality of laws and other legal acts, passed by the Crimean parliament or its presidium, and of presidential decrees and government ordinances and decisions of local legislatures.

Sergey Nikulin, leader of the Russia parliamentary group, the largest in the parliament, and chairman of the Legislation and Legality Commission, said that the Constitutional Court Act was a prerequisite for the statehood of the republic.

He emphasized that in this respect Crimea had gone farther than Ukraine which did not have a constitutional court.

The bill was passed in a 72 to six vote with four abstentions.

Crimean Radio Carries Pro-Meshkov Views

LD1209142194 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1110 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Simferopol, 12 Sep—Nothing is threatening the publication of newspapers in the Crimea for the moment, but only the pro-presidential point of view is heard on Crimean radio.

TV Center Seized By Police Loyal to Meshkov

LD1109161194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1420 GMT 11 Sep 94

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchikov - TASS]

[Text] Simferopol, 11 Sep—Today Crimean radio broadcast an address by the republic's Supreme Soviet presidium. In it, members of parliament have called on all the inhabitants of the peninsula to stay calm and show restraint and promised that legality and order in the republic would be restored.

Mikhail Bakharev, member of parliament, speaking on Crimean radio said it was not possible to broadcast the text of the address on local television, because the broadcasting television center was seized by a group of staff from law enforcement bodies who have sided with President Yuriy Meshkov. Another group of people working for the law enforcement bodies have locked themselves inside the Crimean parliament building.

Meshkov Supported By 60% of Administration Heads

LD1109210694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov continues to work calmly, not paying any attention to the resolution of the Supreme Soviet. Viktor Minin, minister of state affairs of the republic, stated this to INTERFAX. According to his information, about 60 percent of the heads of local administrations of the peninsula have stated their support for Meshkov.

Viktor Minin reported that the Crimean president coordinates his actions with the Ukrainian leadership, including Leonid Kuchma. According to the Crimean minister, complete understanding has been reached between Yuriy Meshkov and the head of the Ukrainian state.

Viktor Minin noted that Valentin Kuptsov, the Crimean procurator, took up a neutral stand after a meeting with Yuriy Meshkov.

The minister said that the Crimean president did not intend to appeal for support to the troops and to the internal affairs bodies.

Internal Affairs Ministry Will Not Allow Violence

LD1209141194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1050 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev—In an exclusive interview with a UNIAN correspondent yesterday, Ukraine's Internal Affairs Minister Volodymyr Radchenko said that "the militia could not disregard the Supreme Council nor Crimea's president. However, what was most important was that it did not have the right to carry out anticonstitutional instructions." In reply to a question about whose side Crimea's militia is on, Volodymyr Radchenko said that it is carrying out only his orders.

The minister assessed the situation in Simferopol as a "conflict in the upper echelons of power in Crimea." In his view, at this time neither side has considerable force behind it.

He gave assurances that the law enforcement bodies will not allow bloodshed despite the "calls made by hotheads to storm the parliament building and the TV center at night where Meshkov's security service personnel barricaded themselves."

Ukraine's procuracy general is conducting an expert appraisal of Yuriy Meshkov's decree.

A joint statement which was published by Crimea's Procuracy General, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Security Service yesterday stresses that Crimea's law enforcement bodies received instructions not to permit any violent actions in Crimea. The document reads that "the struggle between the powers in Crimea did not affect workers' collectives." The statement warns of dangerous and unforeseen consequences, namely the spreading of local conflicts if force is used.

Militia Units Called in To Maintain Order

LD1209131794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0700 GMT 12 Sep 94

[Text] Simferopol—In an interview for UNIAN on 11 September Viktor Minin, state affairs minister in Crimea's government, stated that the Crimean president had communicated with Ukraine's president by telephone five times in the course of the day. According to Viktor Minin, Leonid Kuchma "did not express dissatisfaction with the actions of the Crimean president," thus informally supporting Yuriy Meshkov.

Viktor Minin also reported that with the agreement of Crimea's president additional subunits of Ukraine's Internal Affairs Ministry from neighboring oblasts are being massed on the peninsula in order to maintain proper order. Militia General Eduard Fere [name as received], who has arrived from Kiev, informed UNIAN that the issue of bringing additional forces onto the peninsula is in process of being resolved.

Police Urged To Remain Loyal, Preserve Order

LD1109165894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1644 GMT 11 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev, 11 Sep—The Procuracy General, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and Security Service of the Ukraine have just released a statement on the situation in the Crimean Republic. The document stresses that the law enforcement bodies in the Crimea have received instructions on no account to permit any violent action that might become a threat to citizens' life and health. The confidence is also expressed that the law enforcement bodies of the Crimea will remain loyal to the laws of the country and will scrupulously preserve public and constitutional order.

Interior Minister Declared 'Persona Non Grata'

LD1109215694 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 2120 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Simferopol, 10 Sep—Two of Volodymyr Radchenko's assistants (he is Ukraine's Minister of Internal Affairs) escorted Valeriy Kuznetsov, Crimea's minister of internal affairs, from the building of the Crimean main internal affairs directorate. He had arrived there with the intention of holding talks. From today Mr. Kuznetsov is persona non grata in this building.

Masol Urges 'Radical Change' To Develop Economy

LD1009183194 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] A conference of heads of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Crimea, oblast councils, Kiev and Sevastopol city councils of people's deputies took place at the Supreme Council of Ukraine on 10 September. It was attended by Oleksandr Moroz, chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine, Ukraine's Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol, and Oleksandr Tkachenko, first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council of Ukraine. They considered the socioeconomic situation in the state and the draft law of Ukraine on local councils of people's deputies.

A decline in production is continuing in Ukraine's economy. This fact has been stated by Ukraine's Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol, who spoke at the conference. In connection with this, the prime minister spoke out for radical changes in the approaches of the bodies of power toward the development of economy. According to the prime minister, the issue on the social security of the people who suffered as a result of the Chernobyl catastrophe remains a serious problem. The main concerns of the government, Vitaliy Masol said, are three issues: The completion of harvesting and ensuring the preservation of the harvest, an effective preparation for the winter, and a radical transformation of the financial and banking system. Now, he stressed, tax will be imposed on profit, not income, and the size of tax will be 30 percent.

Shpek Appointed First Vice Premier

LD0909154194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1330 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev—By decree of the Ukrainian president, Valeriy Samoplavskyy has been released from the post of first vice premier in connection with his transfer to other work.

By decree of the president, Economy Minister Roman Shpek is appointed Ukrainian first vice premier.

Roman Vasylyovych Shpek was born in 1954. He is a technological engineer by profession. From 1989 he was deputy minister of Ukraine's timber industry. From 1991 to 1992 he was minister for affairs of destatization of property and demonopolization of production. From 1992 he was in Ukraine's Economy Ministry.

He studied at Delaware University. He was elected people's deputy of Ukraine for Kosovskiy constituency No. 200 in Ivano-Frankovsk Oblast.

By decree of the Ukrainian president, Ihor Mityukov, deputy chairman of the board of Ukraine's National Bank, has been appointed vice premier for issues of financial and credit policy and currency regulation. (Born 1952, an economist by profession, worked for the "Ukrayina" agro-industrial bank).

Masol on Ending Export, Import Tariffs

LD0909143594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Ukraine is ready to cancel tariffs in its trade with other CIS countries, including Russia, if these states undertake similar moves, Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol told journalists in Moscow Thursday.

He said that Ukraine had already annulled customs tariffs and VAT for equipment and raw materials imported to Ukraine.

Masol said customs tariffs were limiting export of Ukrainian goods to the Russian market. He said that the Russian market is the most attractive for Ukrainian businessmen.

Masol believes that this issue could be settled in the framework of the interstate economic committee.

K196 Trillion Budget Deficit Expected

AU1009124094 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 2 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "The Emission Ceilings Are Bursting"]

[Text] As already reported, the Cabinet of Ministers approved amended indexes of the state's socioeconomic development and consolidated budget until the end of the current year.

According to Minister of Finance Petro Hermanchuk, who briefed the mass media on the final results of governmental debates, according to tentative estimates, the deficit of this year's consolidated budget will amount to about 196 trillion karbovantsi [K]; in other words, about 20 percent of the gross domestic product and 27 percent of its expenditures. The hope is that the deficit may be reduced to K100 trillion.

Thus, it is unlikely that Ukraine will, in the near future, receive credits from international financial organizations, which demand a policy capable of reducing the consolidated budget deficit by 10 percent. It will soon be seen how painful this is going to be for the people, as domestic market prices will rise rapidly, according to minister of the economy Roman Shpek, by 19 percent in the third quarter.

As always, agriculture is among the main factors of the state's pricing policy. At the recent government session, according to Petro Hermanchuk, a minor conflict occurred between Minister of Agriculture Yuriy Karasyk and Viktor Stelmakh, deputy chairman of Ukraine's National Bank. They spoke about the K13 trillion of credit resources that had been thrown into circulation like a stone into water and cannot now be located, and about indexation of the budget funds that will, this year, be allocated for purchasing 13.8 million metric tons of grain in accordance with the state contract.

Nuclear Plants Fall Short of Supply Target

LD0909141294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1130 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Kiev—On the results of Ukrainian nuclear power plants' operation in August, Ukraine's Derzhkomatom [State Committee for the Use of Nuclear Power] has announced that the nuclear industry for the first time failed to meet a month's electricity generation target. The adjusted plan was fulfilled by 99.4 percent, and the initial one by as little as two-thirds. The adjustment in the target was necessitated by unplanned repairs, unforeseen checks of the reactor control and safety system, an investigation of the overheating of the Zaporozhye AES cooling pond water, and repairs of South Ukrainian AES generating set number one resulting in a delay to comply with the requirements of an inspection by Ukraine's Derzhatomnahlyad [State Committee for the Control of Work Safety in Nuclear Power Engineering].

Although these power stations' plans were roughly halved, they still remained unfulfilled. All AES's, except for Chernobyl, generated less electricity in August than in July, producing a total of 18.6 percent of all of Ukraine's electricity, compared, for example, with over 40 percent last winter.

Disruptions in the operation of generating sets forced a restriction in their capacity. The amount of electricity generated in August fell short by 1,364,500,000 kWh, which represents 48 percent of all electricity output by nuclear power plants. Delays in repairs to the stations, which occurred mainly due to a lack of funds due to nonpayment by energy consumers, accounted for two-thirds of that amount.

During the month, there were 13 disruptions in the work of AES's. All of them were rated zero level on the international scale of incidents at nuclear power plants—i.e., they were not radioactively dangerous. Of the 13 incidents, six occurred at the Zaporozhye AES.

Belarus

Lukashenka Sets Up Security Council

LD0909221894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1838 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] President Alyaksandr Lukashenka on Friday formed a Security Council, whose permanent members are, besides himself, his chief of staff—Leonid Sinitsyn, State Secretary Viktor Sheyman, Prime Minister Mikhail Chigir and First Deputy Parliamentary Chairman Vyacheslav Kuznetsov. The defense, interior and foreign ministers, the chairman of the National Security Committee and the prosecutor general are "rank-and-file" members.

Parliamentary Chairman Mecheslav Hryb has not been appointed to the council, a fact which analysts attribute to problems in his relations with the president.

On August 4, Lukashenka issued a decree putting all property previously controlled by parliament (public buildings, hotels, construction and motor transport enterprises, health service establishments, a printshop and three national parks, including Belovezhskaya Pushcha) under the jurisdiction of the president's office.

The parliament presidium, at a meeting on Thursday chaired by Hryb, condemned the decree as contradicting the Constitution.

According to a source close to Hryb, the parliamentary chairman "has tried to settle the conflict and got the presidium to pass a protocol which does not involve any official action but merely expresses concern about the president's step."

Lukashenka, however, has not revised his decree, which, observers believe, is likely to put him at odds with the legislature.

Syanko on Latest Foreign Policy Initiatives

WS1209110294 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 7 Sep 94 pp 1, 3

[Report by Vital Tsyhankow: "The Policy Aimed at Monetary Unification Has Created a Negative Image for Belarus in Europe"]

[Text] Belarusian Foreign Minister Uladzimir Syanko held a news conference for journalists yesterday. He asked to regard it as only one of the Foreign Ministry's regular meetings with the press.

First, Uladzimir Syanko reported on the latest international plans of the Belarusian leadership. For example, a regular meeting of CIS heads of government will be held on 9 September. According to the minister, it "should become a rather powerful leverage for deepening cooperation between the CIS members." Meetings of the Belarusian president with his Ukrainian and Lithuanian counterparts will be held in early October. An invitation to visit Belarus was sent to the Polish foreign minister. The Lithuanian foreign minister will probably come to Minsk on 13-14 September. This diplomatic activity is no accident, because, as Uladzimir Syanko said, "we would like to clarify our relations with neighbors and take a step forward."

The Belarusian diplomatic branch is also actively preparing for a regular UN session at which the most important task of the Belarusian delegation will be to cut our share in this organization. Support for our position on this difficult financial issue will be rendered by German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. Speaking about his recent visit to Germany, Uladzimir Syanko said that German partners guaranteed the realization of a credit line of 300 million marks which we had been promised before.

The conference, however, did not pass without a sensation of scandal. The foreign minister reported how he met with his Russian counterpart on the eve of the news conference and expressed indignation of the Belarusian leadership at an article published on 3 September in IZVESTIYA entitled "The Country of Cucumbers." "I said that this publication which is disgraceful, humiliating, and insulting not only to the Belarusian president but to Belarus in general triggered indignation all over the Republic. It is a mockery of Belarusian symbols, language, in a word, of everything that is Belarusian," emphasized Uladzimir Syanko. The minister and the journalists briefly discussed the independent press, decency, and the purpose of similar demarches. The minister, however, said resolutely: "I have never tried to restrict journalists in their right to write and present information.... If, however, international relations are in focus we should remember about the responsibility of writing such words. Articles devoted to a specific state, nation, or national symbols should always have their specific boundaries...."

Responding to the question of whether Belarusian leaders have indeed earned such an attitude through their behavior, Syanko addressed the negative state management of the state by the former government: "The policy that led to monetary unification created a very negative image of Belarus abroad. The West realized that the implementation of the agreement would result in the Belarusian incorporation into the Russian Federation. We cannot rely on Russia's disinterested help and financial support...."

The foreign minister emphasized: "In my opinion, we cannot discuss unification. Some politicians assume that we can speak about the unification of three Slavic states—Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia. I assume, however, that this issue has overstepped the limits of reality and acquired a theoretical nature.... To my mind, this is unreal, and as an ethnic Belarusian I am really proud that Belarus is an independent state. I am convinced that it will stay independent.... As for our relations with Russia, we have nothing but close economic, political, and military cooperation."

Talks also focused on Belarusian participation in the "Partnership for Peace" program that, according to Senko, "is a very important issue for the Western states." The foreign minister reported that a positive decision on the issue has been virtually adopted, while a juridical decision will be forthcoming in September.

Due to financial difficulties, Belarus will probably not participate in the military exercises and will limit itself to working over technical compatibility of arms and participation in various conferences.

Anticrisis Plan Calls for Rich To Foot Energy Bill

MK1009105994 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 5

[Report by Valentin Zhdanko under the "Belarus" rubric: "Electricity Supply to 120 Enterprises Halted"]

[Text] Belarus' debt for Russian energy supplies, which has reached nearly $500 million, is prompting the republic's authorities to search for drastic solutions to the problem. President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has ordered that electricity supplies to some enterprises that have run into particularly large debts be halted. Around 120 enterprises have already been brought to a standstill. The same future awaits many others as well, Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Kokarev said.

Mr. Kokarev said that providing the population with gas and heating in the coming winter would be problematic. The only way out of the impasse, in his view, is to shift the financial burden from the state budget onto enterprises and individuals. Until recently, the industry footed only 30 percent of the energy bill. Individual households received electricity at one-tenth of its actual cost. Tariffs were increased recently, but they are still a long way from achieving the level of realistic market energy prices.

Meanwhile, the president has promised the people that after 1 September prices will no longer be rising and that the downturn in standards of living will be reversed. The architects of the anticrisis program have encountered considerable difficulties in connection with the pledge. As a compromise, it was suggested that the costs be shouldered by well-off citizens, at whose expense heating and electricity would be provided to the poor. Hence, it is possible that the number of Belarusians entitled to benefits will increase even further. As of today, over 5 million citizens—half the country's population—enjoy various kinds of benefits.

'Incompetence' Led To Border Guards' Problems

MM0909134394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Sep 94 p 5

[Report by Aleksandr Starikevich: "Belorussian President Changes Border Command"]

[Text] Minsk—The situation with Belorussia's [Belarus] Border Guards is still attracting attention. The commission that studied their activity has completed its work and submitted its findings to President Alyaksandr Lukashenka.

In the commission's opinion, there are a number of problems within the Border Guards which have caused the situation on the border to deteriorate. Among them incompetent leadership. By his own admission, the political activity that Border Guards' commander Yevgeniy Bocharov (who has now been removed from his post) "carried out and will continue to carry out" in no way compensates for failures in professional training.

Meanwhile things are pretty somber on the border. The mass crossing of the border in the Belovezhskaya Forest was altogether a trivial issue.

There has been an equally massive sale of combat weapons via the border troops (unregistered amounts of gas weapons were sold). In order to strengthen border security by personally taking part in patrols the aforementioned General Bocharov evidently acquired a Stechkin pistol in 1992 at the absolutely absurd price of 6,656 rubles [R], an IZh-27 hunting gun (R75,000), and a Winchester (R40,000). His combat deputy Vyacheslav Kozlov provided himself with an SVD sniper rifle with optical sight (R2550) and an IZh-43 hunting gun.

In addition to the Border Guards other highly placed people have also acquired personal weapons. Finance Minister Stefan Yanchuk also intends to look at someone through the optical sight of an SVD sniper rifle. Roman Vnuchko, who combines the post of chairman of the Planning and Budget Commission with that of banker, has armed himself to the teeth: Last year alone he bought an IZh-27 hunting gun, an SVD sniper rifle, and a Makarov pistol. Either racketeers were pestering him, or it was representatives of budget organizations. Against this backdrop Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb looks simply modest. He preferred an ordinary Makarov above all else.

"We did not try to look for shortcomings in the Border Guards," your IZVESTIYA correspondent was told by commission leader Petr Chaus. "We joined all interested organizations—the Foreign Ministry, the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], the KGB, and the Border Guards themselves—in pondering how to resolve the problem and make the border a real border instead of a passageway."

Petr Chaus' words are borne out by the fact that, apart from a number of purely professional recommendations, the commission suggested that attention be drawn to servicemen's social situation and living conditions. It is proposed that a considerably higher percentage of the funds received from the sequestration of contraband freight than is now the case be left at the border guards' disposal.

It is not known yet what conclusions the president will draw, although he has already stated that the Border Guards will come under his personal jurisdiction. But it is quite in keeping for Alyaksandr Lukashenka to ask Petr Chaus to implement his commission's recommendations by heading the Border Guards.

Moldova

Foreign Minister Calls For Pull-Out of 14th Army

LD0909132494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1304 GMT 9 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] September 3 TASS—"Moldavia's [Moldova's] stand on the Russian 14th Army remains unchanged: It must be withdrawn from the republic's territory within the agreed time limits," Moldavian Foreign Minister Mikhail Popov stated in an interview broadcast by Kishinev radio today.

The minister stressed that "there are people opposing the agreement on the army's withdrawal, reached during the recent Moldavian-Russian talks. They are to be found in Russia, too. However, Moscow's official stand coincides with the position of the Moldavian leadership and does not call in question the need of pulling Russian armed forces out of the country. They are now deployed on the territory of a foreign state, which did not give its consent to their stay here. The new constitution of Moldavia prohibits the establishment of foreign war bases on the territory of the republic," Popov stressed. According to the Moldavian foreign minister, the main task today is to work out a mechanism for controlling the withdrawal of the 14th Army, including international inspectors.

The minister's declaration, analysts believe, is linked with the statement made by commander of the 14th Army General Aleksandr Lebed, which he made on Wednesday. Replying to reporters, who wished to know about the prospects for the withdrawal of Russian armed forces from Moldavia, the general said with his typical straightforwardness that "there is no harm in day-dreaming, but the Russian Army will not be pulled out, at least until the international community guarantees stability and peace in the Dniester region".

Lebed Decries U.S. 'Interference'

AU0909161494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2030 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Text] Tiraspol BASAPRESS, 8/9/1994—Yesterday, Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed [commander of the 14th Russian Army] held a press conference at the 14th Army Command. Lebed said he learned about the Russian troops' total withdrawal after the conclusion of the 10th round of the Moldovan-Russian talks and has a negative attitude toward this decision. He was also dissatisfied with the United State's and other Western countries' interference in the problem of the Russian troops' withdrawal. Lebed mentioned that this is an internal problem of Russia and Moldova, which are CIS members. Referring to the visit and position taken by Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the UN, Lebed said that "they don't have to interfere with their recommendations." He said that his relations with the Tiraspol authorities "are still miserable" and that he will continue his military career. He did not exclude the possibility of involving in politics "if the situation will require." Lebed said that he recognizes the legitimacy of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic.

Parliament Ratifies Credit Agreement With EU

LD0909143694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] The Moldovan Parliament has ratified a credit agreement with the European Union [EU] of July 25, 1994. Under the agreement, an ECU 45 million ($54.9 million) credit will be granted to Moldova which will be used chiefly to purchase food and forage.

Moldovan Finance Ministry Officials told the Financial Information Agency that the credit was given for a term of 10 years at an annual interest rate of 7%. The first instalment of the credit, $25 million, could be released before the end of September.

The Moldovan Finance Minister told parliament that $10 million of the first installment would be used to buy grain. Moldova harvested as little as one million tonnes of grain in 1994, less than one half of the 1993 crop. It is expected to purchase nearly one million tonnes of food and forage grain.

The remainder of the installment will be given as credit to Moldovan factories at a rate at least equal to that of the National Bank, 74% [figure as received].

Sources close to the Moldovan government told the Financial Information Agency that a $40 million credit is being negotiated with Japan. Much of that amount is expected to be transferred to the Russian gas monopoly Gazprom. Moldova owes a total of over $200 million to Gazprom.

Premier Briefs CIS on Economic Catastrophe

LD0909140394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangeli told a meeting of CIS government leaders in Moscow Friday that bad weather in August had resulted in a catastrophic situation in the republic's economy. He said agriculture had suffered very heavily.

He said that the volume of agricultural production this year would probably be no more than half the average over the past three years. As a result, related processing industries would also suffer and the situation of the economy as a whole would deteriorate.

He said the August 11-12 hurricane over the north of the republic had damaged around 10,000 homes and destroyed 35,000 hectares of crops. The torrential rains of August 26-27 in central and parts of southern Moldova had caused damage in 136 towns and villages, destroyed 5,000 homes, 350 km of roads and 25 dams and dykes. Some 37,000 hectares of crops had been flooded and destroyed.

The disasters had left 32 people dead, eight missing and some 100 injured.

Sangeli thanked for the aid provided by Russia, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Belarus and other CIS countries. He said the aid would help Moldova overcome the results of the disasters.

Anticrime Chief Resigns Following Son's Arrest

AU0909122494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1925 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Tiraspol, BASAPRESS, 7/9/1994—Lieutenant Colonel Nikolai Shportyko, head of the Department for Combating Crime of the Tiraspol Ministry of Interior, resigned on his own initiative. This follows the arrest of his son Oleg Shportyko, Lieutenant Major, at Tighina (Bender) Police Department. Shportyko-junior committed a robbery, taking $800. This case is investigated by the Dniester Prosecutor's Office.

Ministry Forecasts Increase in Industrial Output

AU0909122694 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1925 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 7/9/1994—Experts from the Industry Ministry forecast a 10-15 percent increase in output for September. According to statistics, in August the industrial output of the enterprises subordinated to the Industry Ministry exceeded by 11.5 percent the level of the previous month. In July, industrial output increased by 4.5 percent. Gheorghe Efros, vice minister of industry, told BASAPRESS that the economic growth has become possible after the annulment of excises for industrial goods, granting of credits to viable economic units and implementation of well-organized actions. He also said that the industrial enterprises received a credit worth 40 million lei and now have the possibility to increase their current assets. After the annulment of excises, prices reduced by 30-40 percent and producers could sell much of their stocks. Efros also mentioned that the enterprises use only 40 percent of their capabilities. Frants Solomko, counselor of the Moldovan Industrialists Union, told BASAPRESS that however, "there are no reasons to say that the crisis is behind us, many enterprises are still facing a serious financial situation".

President Wants To See Speedier Privatization

AU0909122294 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1925 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 7/9/1994—The Moldovan leadership is interested that privatization continue more rapidly, said president Mircea Snegur during today's visit to the republican center for collection of application in the auctions for patrimonial vouchers. The ongoing reforms are criticized by specialists and the opposition press "that does not want, however, to take into account what was already done," said Snegur. He emphasized that the privatization must stop under no circumstances. Snegur pointed out that, although 23 investment funds and trust companies are involved in the privatization process, there is still a need for more of them to carry out the privatization efficiently. At the same time, "the financial, methodological and moral support offered by international and American companies, in the first place, is considerably large". On the other hand, Ceslav Ciobanu, minister of privatization and state property administration, said that the participation of citizens in the second auction is much poorer than in the first. He also pointed out that 80 large, medium-sized and small enterprises will be bid at the September auction. The number of application collecting offices will rise to 300.

Poll Reveals Majority Prefer State-Run Enterprises

AU0909122594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1925 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 7/9/1994—Over 72 percent of respondents of a poll approve of the constitutional provisions on the social orientation of the economy based on various forms of property and free competition, states to the newspaper NEZAVISIMAYA MOLDOVA Alexandru Timus, correspondent-member of the Moldovan Academy of Science. Most respondents favor a greater state interference in the social sphere. Over two thirds believe that it is necessary to restore the traditional economic ties with the former Soviet republics, reduce taxes and interest rates and eliminate customs barriers. At the question "How do you see the enterprise where you are working?" 34 percent said that they would like it to be state-run, 27 percent to be a joint-stock company, 13 percent joint-venture and six percent cooperative. 85 percent of families live at the poverty level, added Timus. The salaries of the family members cover only a third of the minimum consumption basket. 75 percent of the respondents are dissatisfied with the current level of medical assistance. The opinion poll also indicates that a few people favor the unification with Romania. Thus in 1991 3.1 percent favored the unification, in 1992 9.4 percent, in 1993 7.7 percent, and in 1994 5.6 percent.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Urges Entrepreneurs To Sign Accord

LD0909220694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1838 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev urged the republic's entrepreneurs to sign a document on national accord. He said at an entrepreneur conference in Almaty today that consolidation of all branches of power and society was the main condition for resolving the key task - overcoming the crisis and establishing democracy in Kazakhstan.

Nazarbayev said that in his message to the parliament in June he had proposed the signing of such a document. However, parliament had ignored the proposal. Nazarbayev, therefore, appealed to entrepreneurs to initiate such a document and said that he would be the first to sign it.

Nazarbayev stressed that Kazakhstan was living through difficult times after it had gained sovereignty and introduced its national currency in last November. He compared the present situation in Kazakhstan to the situation in Russia at the end of 1993 and stressed that only social and political stability could help to improve the economic situation and attract foreign investments.

Nazarbayev called the government priority bringing the inflation rate in Kazakhstan down to 8-10 a month by the end of this year and stabilizing prices and the exchange rate of the tenge (the Kazakh national currency). He said he believed that the government must end subsidies to insolvent enterprises as well as halt subsidies for bread, now 12 times less expensive in Kazakhstan than in Russia.

Nazarbayev stressed that the financial situation in the country did not allow the government to offer support to producers, even though Kazakhstan has received $3.5 billion in investments over the past two years.

Businessmen's Pressure May Bring Down Premier

LD0909183794 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Video report by correspondent A. Svyazin; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer Svetlana Sorokina] A forum of Kazakhstan's industrialists and entrepreneurs started its proceedings in Almaty today.

[Svyazin] Delegates from 19 oblasts in Kazakhstan have gathered in Almaty. The forum is also attended by visitors from Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan], Uzbekistan, and Ukraine. Moreover, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev also decided to listen to what the businessman had to say. According to Baysiytov, the leader of the Congress of Entrepreneurs, all the basic laws have been forgotten in Kazakhstan and one has to work in accordance with some kind of enactments. The number of commercial enterprises is dropping sharply, while those quitting the legal business go on to work in the underground structures. Law enforcement bodies can easily block the work of any enterprise, justifying it by saying they are combating economic crime. Entrepreneurs blame the crisis mainly on the mistakes of the government of Kazakhstan, which proved unable to use wisely the billions of dollars of Western aid and plunged Kazakhstan into a state of economic and political stagnation.

[Begin Bulat Abilov recording, entrepreneur, identified by caption] The absence of any team in the Cabinet of Ministers is one of the main causes of the failure of our reforms. I am also worried by the lack of any team around our president. Who can name his supporters, his closest allies and companions? [end recording]

[Svyazin] Those present in the conference hall got the impression that Nursultan Nazarbayev was prepared to replace Kazakhstan's prime minister and that it was a matter of a few months. Moreover, strange as it may seem, Sergey Tereshchenko did not attend the forum proceedings.

Deputy Speaker Receives DPRK Envoy

LD0909144894 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1345 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Deputy Speaker Kuanysh Sultanov yesterday received Yi Kil-nam, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of North Korea to Kazakhstan, at his request.

The ambassador expressed thanks for the warm greeting on the occasion of North Korea's independence day, celebrated today, and has said that North Korea is looking forward to the upcoming official visit of a Kazakh parliamentary delegation to the DPRK.

On the eve of the visit, the diplomat said that North Korea is closely following the work of the Kazakh parliament. He told the deputy speaker about the situation in his country and the views of the North Korean leadership on some acute international problems. The most important issues, in his opinion, are those connected with setting up a confederation of two sovereign states on the Korean Peninsula in order to unify the nation, as well as replacing, on the U.S.' request, existing nuclear technologies used in North Korea for producing energy by new and more ecologically friendly ones.

Industry Trade Union on Crisis in Oil Industry

LD0909172294 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1345 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Excerpts] [No dateline as received] How to improve the situation in the oil industry?

A plenary session of the Central Council of the Kazakh Oil and Gas Industries Trade Union will be held on 14

September. In this connection, our correspondent interviewed Kalzhan Utegulov, chairman of the industry's trade union Central Council.

[Q] What items are on the agenda of this upcoming plenary session?

[A] First of all the economic situation at enterprises engaged in oil recovery and refining.

[Q] What problems does the industry have?

[A] But the financial and economic ties of the existing structures of oil recovery need revision. Otherwise, one cannot hope for a quick improvement in the area. Currently, many enterprises are not able to pay wages to their staff. The situation has been aggravated because of the Cabinet of Minister's resolution to defer payment for fuel delivered to farmers until 1 November, the end of the harvesting campaign.

Enterprises cannot function properly because of the existing taxation system and high bank credit rates. For this reason, the decision made by the government two years ago to build the west Kazakhstan-Kumkol gas pipeline is not being implemented. By today, of the planned 1,200 kms, only seven kms have been built. Foreign investment crediting lines have not been opened for building the Aktau oil refinery. The Omani credit has been closed down because Kazakhstan failed to fulfill its exporting obligations. At the same time, the possibility of pumping our oil to Iran is being negotiated, which means being thrown backward and becoming a raw materials annex despite the country's plans to establish the full technological cycle of oil recovery and refining.

If the plenary session is not able to cope with the problems, we will convene a congress of the industry's workers to take collective protection measures of our professional interests and rights.

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Interviewed on Current Issues

LD0909215794 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 1610 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Interview with President Askar Akayev by unidentified correspondents; place and date not given; passages in quotation marks broadcast in Russian; monitored in progress—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Akayev] ... "It is an important event in the political life of a democratic state. Remember 1993, when we had a government crisis. We have formed a new government working today, and nothing horrible has happened.

"Speaking about the reasons for the crisis of the parliamentary power, I would like to sum up by saying that our parliament has exhausted its resources. [passage indistinct] I think we need a renewed parliament. We need to elect a new parliament on the basis of the Constitution adopted last year. [passage indistinct]

"Our constitution has realistically divided all work and power between three branches. Today our executive power is working, and I would say the whole structure of executive power—the central government, the oblast and rayon administrations, and, I think, the executive power—is coping well. Of course, there are disadvantages and we discuss them at government meetings, but the executive power is viable and coping with its functions.

"Of late, we have been very actively reinforcing the third branch of power, namely, the judicial branch. You know that we have held the first congress of Kyrgyz judges. I would say it is natural for the third branch of power to be in crisis now because all three branches are connected. The division of power envisages that these powers are changed in turn. For instance, one year government elections are held, then in the following year parliamentary elections are held, finally a third term is fixed for electing the judicial branch. It is important that two branches should work at one and the same time, so that the main principle of democracy—the system of checks and balances—works. I believe this principle is working in our country today.

"If we wanted presidential rule only, we would not have accelerated the process of reinforcing judicial power. But we are actively helping the judicial branch; we want them to be strong and independent. The judicial power will be a check, a counterbalance, for the system. As soon as possible, as soon as our constitutional framework and our laws allow, we need to hold democratic free elections for a new parliament and all the three branches of power will function together again.

"In conclusion I would like to stress that the process of democratization is irreversible in Kyrgyzstan today, in all spheres of our society. There are no grounds at all for doubting what forms of rule Kyrgyzstan needs. We need to be brave and continue to move bravely forward on the democratic way of development we have chosen. As president I will firmly abide by the norms of the Constitution, respect the framework of our Constitution, and try to strengthen democracy in our republic. Only economic obstacles can impede our way; nothing else can impede us."

[Unidentified correspondent] [passage indistinct]

[Akayev] I can say we have quite good relations with the opposition. We have had some disagreements and difficulties, but I think there is nothing to be afraid of. The Kyrgyz people also say that a dominating friend is worse than a remote enemy. I think one has to be more apprehensive about dominating friends who follow your every step than about remote enemies. Your question put it well: there can be dozens and hundreds people unhappy with our policy, but with time people will see who is just playing political games and who is sincere.

I would like people to understand that they are to come and participate in the elections of a fresh Supreme Council. Some representatives of some oblasts, for instance, of Chu region and others, say [words indistinct] We must resolve this problem first. It is not wise to make promises without knowing whether you can keep them. What I mean is that economics has its own laws. Just as there are laws in physics and mechanics, so too there are laws about economic development connected with democratic development.

We need a professional parliament. Such a parliament will promote economic reform.

[Unidentified correspondent] [passage indistinct]

[Akayev] I would like to say that nobody canceled the Supreme Council session. According to the Constitution, the government and the president have the right to convene sessions of parliament, but as president I have never used this right. The presidium of the Supreme Council convened the session. Most deputies refused to participate in that session because they wanted fresh elections, so the presidium decided to convene an extraordinary session. As far as I know, nobody canceled it. The Constitution does not give me the right to do this; only the presidium of the Supreme Council has this right. The president does not have to agree or disagree; it is not up to him. This is the full prerogative of the presidium of the Supreme Council. [passage indistinct]

The Supreme Council must be able to implement laws. If we speak about referendums, you know that we adopted our Constitution last year on 5 May. If it aims to be a democratic state, Kyrgyzstan needs a valid constitution.

The second thing it needs is a constitutional assembly. All in all, we need about 700 people from various parties, movements, branches of power, and so on. These people will be convened as an assembly and discuss and adopt a constitution.

There was a time when the deputies wanted to cut down on the president's prerogatives. I told them that the first step was to elect a new parliament, then the assembly would discuss a constitution, and finally a referendum should be held. But the deputies did not agree with me. They wanted a compromise so we reached such a compromise. [passage omitted]

We need a two-chamber parliament. [passage omitted] Then our state will be strong. All this should be added to the Constitution, in the form of four or five additional articles. We must take into account our present day situation. We need these changes and amendments in the Constitution today, because our reform is being implemented today. [passage omitted]

I think the local self-rule bodies should be elected in October, and the referendum should be held some time in December. If we hold the local elections on 22 October, the referendum can follow and, after two months, on 24 December, we could hold a national election. If we need a strong building, we need a good foundation for it. [passage omitted]

Some people argue that because it was only last year that we adopted the Constitution, we do not need to change it already. [passage omitted] But a constitution is not the Holy Koran; it can be changed. Our life is changing, and the law must change to be flexible and keep up with the changes in our life. We must hold a referendum and find out what the nation thinks. [passage omitted]

We need talented people; we need to raise new cadres. For instance, the chairman of our national bank is Marat Sultanov, a talented young banker. Another young and talented person is Koichumanov; he was recently appointed chairman of the economic committee and was selected by the Rockefeller Fund. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] [passage omitted]

[Akayev] They are concerned about the plight of our reform. Obviously I share their discontent and anxiety. We are trying to take appropriate measures. For instance, from 1 September we increased pensions by as much as our budget allowed. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified Russian correspondent] [passage indistinct about democratic forces]

[Akayev] I want to say very firmly that we are in control and we will be able to remain in control of the situation, to preserve stability, and to prevent society splitting. I think that this congress of democratic forces, of democratic movements, is quite acceptable because we live in a democratic country where all parties and movements have such a right. We will not prevent some deputies having a meeting if that is what they want to do. This is their legal right. You may have noticed that my decrees say nothing about dissolving parliament or refusing to allow them to attend the session.

I believe that they have every right to get together, to voice their stance and their opinion. However, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that it was these parties and democratic movements that initiated the dissolution of the present Supreme Council. The Supreme Council itself acted as a catalyst. Today I simply cannot imagine that they can claim anything from the president or from the executive power or any other state bodies. I would like to remind you that immediately after the Constitution was adopted, esteemed Supreme Council Chairman Medetkan Sherimkulov himself suggested that parliament dissolve itself and fix a date for new elections. [break in reception]

Support for Akayev on Dealing With Parliament

LD0909123994 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 2300 GMT 8 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Under a serious social and political situation following the acute parliamentary crisis, the presidential apparatus of Askar Akayev continues to receive numerous letters and telegrams from various organizations, enterprises, and individuals, expressing words of confidence and support for the course carried out by the president, his decisive measures aimed at preventing destabilization within society, and aimed at the social protection of low income groups.

Muslim Women's Movement Supports President

LD1209103894 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Summary] The Presidium of the Kyrgyz Muslim women's multinational Political Movement for Equal Rights sent a letter supporting President Akayev's edict disbanding the Supreme Council. The letter was signed by the Presidium's chair Barymbekova; Kyrgyz section chief Ayupova; Turkish section chief Karipova; Karachay section chief Kuvanova; Tartar section chief Gubaydullina; Dongan section chief Matesheva; Kazakh section chief Akhmetova; Yiugur section chief Kurbanova; Uzbek section chief Akhunbayeva; Dargin section chief Israilova; and Ossetian section chief Hasanova.

Russian To Retain Official Status Until 2005

MM1208101594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Sep 94 p 1

["Own Information" report: "Russian Will Be State Language Until 2005"]

[Text] Bishkek—Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan] is the first country in the CIS to officially recognize Russian as a second state language.

The publication of the government decree permits the use of the "great and powerful" language in the clerical work of organs of state power, and in all organizations and institutions. Bilingualism will be maintained until 1 January 2005.

Tajikistan

Opposition Continues Tavildara Attacks

LD1209101994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0917 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe September 12 TASS—A Tajik government combat helicopter came under machine-gun fire by the Tajik opposition on Sunday [11 September] in the Pamir foothills' Tavildari district approximately 280 km. east of Dushanbe, Tajik Defense Ministry sources told ITAR-TASS today. A National Army headquarters spokesman said the chopper was highly damaged, but the pilot managed to land it safely at one of the military aerodromes.

Regarding the situation in the Tavildara district, the Tajik Defense Ministry spokesman only said that the government detachments were continuing armed action against the irreconcilable opposition's 1,500-strong armed formations. The source added that the armed opposition includes mercenaries, and the formations are equipped with modern weapons, including foreign ones.

But at the same time, the Defense Ministry official rejected rumours that the Tajik mujahidins were conducting large-scale offencsive and were under full control of the Tavildara district.

Defense Ministry: 23 Killed in Tavildara Clashes

LD1109204194 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2000 GMT 11 Sep 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast; by Sergey Shatunov]

[Text] Eight servicemen have been killed and 14 wounded during clashes between government forces and the opposition in Tavildarinskiy rayon of Tajikistan, according to a top officer of the republican Defense Ministry. The opposition has recently lost 15 of its members. The Russian troops stationed in the republic do not interfere in the conflict.

Conflicting Reports on Tavildara Situation

LD1109160094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1450 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] There is no communication with troops of the Tajik Defense Ministry, which are staying in the area of the town of Tavildara (300 km to the east of Dushanbe), Interfax was told on Sunday by Tajik Security Minister Saidamir Zukhurov.

He said the troops loyal to Dushanbe are exchanging fire with the rebels. Zukhurov refused to confirm the information that government troops left the city and are retreating to Kulyab in the south of the republic.

Zukhurov said that Tajik Defense Minister Aleksandr Shishlyannikov is absent, but did not say where he is. Other power structures of the republic refuse to comment on the situation in Tavildara.

Interfax learnt from the sources close to the opposition that during the fighting for Tavildara the rebels seized about 20 servicemen of the Tajik Defense Ministry, destroyed one T-72 tank, three armored personnel carriers, and three trucks.

The source said that rebels also blocked the highway leading to Dushanbe in the area of the town of Komsomolabad (150 km to the east of Dushanbe). According to the source, government troops almost do not resist because of shortage of ammunition and petrol. They are practically not supported from the air since Dushanbe has no aircraft fuel, he said.

Russian troops deployed in the republic do not interfere in the conflict, since they consider it the republic's internal affair.

Officer Cited on Creation of National Army

LD1009142094 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] The creation of the national army is one of foundations of independence, Maj-Gen Farrukh Niyozov said in an interview to our correspondent.

Our republic has achieved a number of success in this matter over the past three years of independence. At present the national army of Tajikistan is able to protect the state and government. However, there are a lot of problems. One of them is the training of servicemen for the national army. To my mind, Maj-Gen Niyozov said, the government found a solution to this issue. A group of Tajik youths have been sent to study at Russian military colleges on the basis of an intergovernmental agreement between the governments of Tajikistan and Russia. It is hoped that they and graduates of the republican military schools will make up the basis of the Tajik national army.

Defense Ministry Statement on Clashes With Opposition

LD1009125394 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1100 GMT 10 Sep 94

["Statement Issued by the Press Center of the Defense Ministry of the Republic of Tajikistan"]

[Text] The situation in regions near the Pamirs has recently become complex. Armed opposition formations managed to advance several kilometers in one of the regions in Miyonadu-Tavildara direction. The fighters' efforts to continue the attack was not successful.

Defense Ministry units took the main positions and completely blocked the difficult access routes to Tavildara and the nearby populated areas. These units are taking decisive measures to locate and eliminate the small armed formations that are attempting to penetrate the central regions of the republic.

A small group which attempted to penetrate into Tavildara region was dispersed when bombarded by helicopters of the military air forces of Tajikistan. The enemy suffered great losses. Several people have been killed and wounded. There is no information available about the exact numbers killed. Several fire emplacement of the the armed formations were destroyed using cannons and mortars.

All rumors about the fighters' success, the capture of Tavildara, the seizure of armor, and the killing and wounding of large numbers of Defense Ministry servicemen are groundless.

Military operations are going on at present, and the government troops fully control the situation in Tavildara rayon. There are some wounded servicemen who were taken to Dushanbe military hospital.

The aim of antigovernment forces to escalate the fighting, in the first instance, is to destabilize the political situation in the republic and to disrupt the next round of inter-Tajiks talks.

The opposition is taking every possible measure to cut off the Badakhshan autonomous oblast from the capital of the republic, and to deprive the people of Badakhshan, before the onset of winter, from the possibility of being supplied with foodstuffs and other goods via the only road which links Dushanbe with Khorog.

The general command of the Defense Ministry is making every effort to eradicate such intentions by certain opposition circles.

Russian Soldiers Badly Injured in Dushanbe

LD1209090994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0858 GMT 12 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe September 12 TASS—Three Russian servicemen, who were inflicted severe craniocerebral injuries by unidentified persons last night, are now in a resuscitation ward in the Dushanbe-based military hospital.

According to a senior commander of the Tajikistan-based Russian border guard troops, a group of young people provoked a fight with two Russian servicemen from an aircraft regiment quartered in Dushanbe and a serviceman from the 201st Motorized-Rifle Division at about 19:00 local time in Dushanbe on sunday.

As a result, the three Russians suffered multiple bodily wounds and grave craniocerebral injuries.

One of them fired a gun twice, including a caution shot, inflicting a slight wound in the arm of an attacker. Local police came to rescue and detained three ruffians. The republic's law-enforcement bodies initiated an investigation into the incident.

According to the above-mentioned source, Russian border guards have been empowered to shoot to kill without a warning in case of a lethal threat.

Opposition Sets New Cease-Fire Conditions

NC1109150094 Paris AFP in English 1433 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept 11 (AFP)—A Tajik rebel leader on Sunday set out new conditions for a ceasefire in the guerrilla war raging in Tajikistan, rejecting recent government concessions as "insufficient."

A leading member of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan, Akbar Turjanzadeh, told AFP that opposition forces demanded "the disarming of the forces loyal to the pro-communist regime in Dushanbe."

They also wanted "security to be re-established in Tajikistan and the return of refugees" who have fled the fighting.

Turjanzadeh also called for an interim government to be set up in Tajikistan two years ahead of free elections.

He warned that if their conditions were not met the rebels were ready to continue their armed struggle and would not participate in presidential elections or a planned referendum.

Rebel leaders are in Tehran for talks with UN mediator Ramiro Piriz-Ballon in the hope of thrashing out a ceasefire accord.

"As long as these conditions have not been met, the opposition will boycott the elections and continue with the armed struggle," he added.

It was the first time the opposition had put forward such conditions for a ceasefire, having previously called for the release of political prisoners, the postponement of the elections and a referendum on the constitution initially set for September.

These conditions were accepted last week by Tajik President Emomali Rakhmonov, who offered general amnesty to the prisoners and postponed elections until November 6, in order to allow the opposition to participate.

Turjanzadeh said the opposition was in an "advantageous position after a series of military successes".

He was apparently referring to the capture of the strategic town of Tavildara, in central Tajikistan, by the Islamic rebels on Friday [9 September].

Turjanzadeh added however that he would take part in the talks with Tajik government leaders in Tehran expected to be held early next week after having been postponed over the weekend.

Piriz-Ballon is already in Iran for the talks and a Tajik government delegation headed by deputy parliament speaker, Abdomajid Dotiyev, is expected to arrive Monday [12 September].

Islamic and democratic forces fled Tajikstan when the pro-communist government came to power in December 1992.

Since then they have been waging a 17-month guerrilla warfare on the border from bases in northern Afghanistan.

Rakhmonov Receives Iranian Ambassador

LD1009104994 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Yesterday Emomali Rakhmonov, chairman of the Supreme Council and head of state received [name indistinct], Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Tajikistan, at his request.

Friendly talks were held between the head of the Tajik state and the ambassador on strengthening mutual cooperation between Tajikistan and Iran.

Defense Ministry Denies Opposition Capture Tavildara

LD1109151994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1300 GMT 11 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vataliy Gordienko]

[Text] Moscow September 11 TASS—"We have no information. All are at the commanding post. We shall possibly tell you something after the minister returns by evening," replied the spokesman of the Tajik Defense Ministry to a request by ITAR-TASS to comment on events in the Tavildara district of Tajikistan.

Military sources told ITAR-TASS on Saturday that armed groups of Tajik opposition captured the Tavildara district center situated 150 kilometers from Dushanbe.

According to these sources, the opposition effectively controls a section of the Tavildara-Momsomolabad highway. Battles in eastern districts bordering the Pamir mountains continue, and the national army is suffering losses.

However, the Tajik KHOVAR news agency reported later that the press center of the Tajik Defense Ministry flatly refuted reports about the capture of Tavildara.

The press centre also stated that, although opposition gunmen succeeded in advancing "towards Tavildara several kilometers," government troops held key positions and "fully sealed off possible approaches to Tavildara and nearby villages".

Mopping-up operations are in progress to destroy small armed groups of militants. Combat aviation made air raids on gunmen who were approaching Tavildara by mountainous paths. They suffered considerable casualties. The exact number of losses is not known. Artillery and mortars quashed several firing emplacements.

The Defense Ministry stated that "all rumours about successes achieved by gunmen and about the capture of Tavildara have no grounds as well as a statement on the capture of combat materiel and great quantities of casualties sustained by government troops.

"Combat operations are now in progress. But the situation in the Tavildara district is fully controlled by the Tajik army."

Officials from the republican National Security Committee where ITAR-TASS turned for explanations on Sunday, avoided to comment on the events in the Tavildara district.

Reaction of the Tajik government to the dramatic events in that district is not known either.

Armenia

Yerevan Reports Situation on Front Lines Peaceful

NC0909185094 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] We have been informed that no incidents occurred on the front lines between the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan today. The situation between the three republics was peaceful, as has been the case during the past few days.

Parties Issue Joint Statement Condemning Lawlessness

NC1009120194 Yerevan SNARK in English 1153 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Yerevan, September 9 (SNARK)—Absence of a Constitution in Armenia prevents the recovery of political, economic and law structures in the republic.

It is said in the joint statement of 5 political parties of the republic including the leading one, Armenian National Movement (ANM).

The document states that "power of bureaucratic system, corruption and bribery are breaking the moral state of the society." The statement criticizes the law inforcement authorities, where the law is of no value.

These and some other disadvantages cause the people's complaint with the authorities, political forces, and as a result with the state itself.

The statement appeals the leading authorities to make every possible effort to get rid of the existing disadvantages bearing in mind to free Armenia from the current moral-political and social- economic situation.

Government To Distribute Privatization Vouchers

NC1009113594 Yerevan SNARK in English 1558 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Yerevan, September 9 (SNARK)—The last stage of preparations of privatization certificates' (vouchers) mass distribution has begun in Armenia. According to package of governmental documents, issued today, universal registration of civilians will be fulfilled in the Republic, and since October 1, making a list of persons, who have right to receive certificates, will start. Meanwhile, distribution of vouchers will begin, which should be finished on January 31, 1995.

Staff of Coordinated Committee on introducing the system of privatization certificates is also confirmed by the Armenian Government. The head of the Committee is the Vice Prime Minister Vigen Chitechyan.

Meanwhile, according to SNARK data, summary cost of privatization certificates and nominal cost of a voucher are not established yet. This problem must be resolved before September 15.

Azeri Newsmen Arrive To Interview Top Officials

MK0909112094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 94 p 3

[Unattributed NEGA report in the "Azerbaijan" column]

[Text] A group of journalists representing Azerbaijan's national TV has arrived in Armenia. The Azerbaijan mass media's initiative is the first of its kind during the entire period of military confrontation between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the latter's claims to Nagorno-Karabakh. In the course of the three-day trip the group is to have exclusive interviews with the Armenian president, the foreign and defense ministers, the chief of the State National Security Directorate, and the chairman of the State TV and Radio Committee. The subject of the interviews is the search for ways of overcoming the most protracted conflict on the territory of the former Union. Links between the two state TV and radio committees are planned to be established to promote information exchanges. The journalists are accompanied on their trip to Armenia by Takhir Agayev, an officer from the Azerbaijan Embassy in Russia.

Azerbaijan

ITAR-TASS on Aliyev-Ter-Petrosyan Talks in Moscow

NC1109191194 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1300 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] President Geydar Aliyev and President Levon Ter-Petrosyan have concluded their two-day talks on ending the Daghlyk Karabakh dispute. Russia took part in the talks as a mediator. According to the ITAR-TASS news agency, Russia proposed a peace plan calling for a separation of the forces of the disputing sides, deployment of peacekeeping forces and UN observers in the buffer zones, and the return of refugees to their place of permanent residence. The plan said that the disputing sides must move to resolve their dispute on Daghlyk Karabakh, which is part of Azerbaijan's territory, after those measures are realized.

The outcome of the talks in Moscow indicates that the sides have said that they are prepared to comply with the cease-fire conditions until a comprehensive political agreement is reached to end the Karabakh dispute.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who took part in the talks as a mediator, has informed ITAR-TASS that progress has been made on the Karabakh dispute. He asserted that the disputing sides have affirmed that they will remain committed to the cease-fire. Later, he said that President Aliyev and President Ter-Petrosyan have agreed to hold bilateral talks. A comprehensive agreement will be signed during their meeting to end the six-year dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Vladimir Kazimirov, President Yeltsin's special envoy to the talks on Daghlyk Karabakh, has said in Moscow that he hopes the meeting of the two presidents will facilitate the signing of a political agreement. That agreement, he said, will end the longest dispute on the territory of the former Soviet Union.

Turkish Foriegn Minister on Relations With Aliyev

LD1009184594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1812 GMT 10 Sep 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sevidzh Abdullayev]

[Text] Baku, 10 Sep—The development of relations with Turkey is Azerbaijan's foreign policy strategy, said Geydar Aliyev, receiving Mumtaz Soysal, Turkish foreign minister, today in the evening. The head of state assessed this working visit to Baku as a new step in strengthening and expanding the brotherly Azerbaijani-Turkish relations and expressed his hope that the new head of the foreign affairs department of the neighboring country will make every effort to develop the traditional contacts between the two states.

The interlocutors especially stressed that the Azerbaijani-Turkish relations differ from their relations with other countries. They said that the reason for this was that the two peoples have common moral and spiritual sources and that they are united by a common culture and traditions. In this respect, the president of Azerbaijan pointed out that his compatriots always appreciated and continue to appreciate the support which Turkey gave and gives them in their struggle for independence and the liberation of the occupied territories. "We have always been together and will be in the future," said Geydar Aliyev.

Turkey's Soysal on 'Multinational' Peace Process

TA1109113494 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1000 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Report by Kudret Dogandemir in Baku]

[Text] Foreign Minister Mumtaz Soysal who arrived in Baku yesterday as the official guest of Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Hasan Hasanov visited the martyrs cemetery today where he laid a wreath and prayed for the souls of the martyrs.

Later, Soysal assessed his visit foi the press at the Turkish Embassy in Baku. He hoped that the Azerbaijani territory under Armenian occupation would be liberated as soon as possible. He said: Azerbaijan is going through a very critical period. We are happy that there is a cease-fire, that there is movement toward peace. However, what is important is how this movement will be concluded. First of all, will all the Azerbaijani territory come back? Will Lachin and Shusha become Azerbaijani territory once again? Second of all, will this peace involve Azerbaijan's full independence, territorial unity, and its liberation from foreign occupation? That is why, both the Baku government and the Ankara government want this peace process to be conducted under a multinational umbrella, not under a single nation umbrella.

Soysal stressed that for this to take place, the relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan must be strengthened.

Hasanov pointed out that Azerbaijan is opposed to having Russia as the only determining factor in the solution of the problems between Armenia and Azerbaijan. It is essential, he stressed, that the conflict be resolved at an international level.

After that, Soysal left Baku for Turkey.

Premier Denied Right to Sign CIS Agreements

LD0909121094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1022 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] The parliament of Azerbaijan has denied Prime Minister Suret Huseynov the right to sign two of the 22 agreements on the agenda of Friday's session of the CIS Prime Ministers' Council in Moscow—on an Inter-State Economics Committee [IEC] and on the protection of CIS borders, sources in the Azerbaijani delegation have said.

At a news conference in the Azerbaijani permanent mission in Moscow on Thursday evening the economics minister, Samad Sadykov said that the control and distribution functions planned to be given to the IEC under the draft held dangers for the independence of the sovereignty of Azerbaijan and as a matter of fact revived the central bodies of the former USSR.

"At the session of the CIS coordinating and consultative committee the Azerbaijani delegation came out with an amendment for vesting a future economics committee with coordinating functions only," Sadykov said. He added that Ukraine and Turkmenistan supported that idea.

Religious Group Signs Cooperation Agreement in Libya

NC1109192194 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1300 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Sheykh-ul-Islam Allkhshukyur Pasha-zade, head of the Supreme Religious Administration of the People of the Caucasus, has visited Libya at the head of a delegation. Pasha-zade attended the ceremonies held in that country on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the al-Fatih [1st of September] Revolution. He also conveyed President Aliyev's letter to Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The letter said: I pray to God that the fraternal relations and mutual cooperation between our two countries, which share the same religion and have similar traditions, will be improved.

The republic's delegation held talks with the Global Call to Islam Organization on the prospects for mutual cooperation in the religious, cultural, [word indistinct], and social fields. The leading officials of the organization assured the delegation that they are prepared to assist Azerbaijan in the preparation of Koranic [word indistinct], the learning of the Arabic language, and [words indistinct] in accordance with the Koran.

The two sides signed an agreement on mutual cooperation at the end of their talks. The agreement provides for cooperation in the recitation, translation, and teaching of the Koran, the exchange of students, [words indistinct], medical aid, and [words indistinct]. Pasha-zade and the secretary general of the Global Call to Islam Organization signed the agreement.

Georgia

Refugees Block Highway to Abkhazia

LD1009194794 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Ethnic Georgian refugees from Abkhazia, who are staging a hunger strike in the village of Rukhi on the Georgian side of the Abkhaz border, have issued a statement to Major General Vasiliy Yakushev, the commander of the Russian peacekeepers in the Abkhaz security zone; Brigadier General John Hvidegaard, the head of the UN military observers in Abkhazia; Taslimur Rahman, UNHCR representative to Georgia; Major General Guram Nikolaishvili, Georgia's first deputy defense minister, and several other Georgian officials.

The statement protests at delays in the implementation of an agreement signed by Georgia, Abkhazia, Russia, and the UN that was expected to lead to their repatriation. It says:

We started an eight-day hunger strike on 4 September. The Georgian and Russian media have given appropriate coverage to our protest, however, the peacekeeping forces and politicians have failed to react to it in any manner. We believe that all provisions in the quadripartite agreement should be implemented. We are forced to resort to a warning action—to block all traffic on the highway near the village of Rukhi. This action began at 12 o'clock on 10 September.

The statement was signed by 17 refugees taking part in the hunger strike. Copies of the statement have been sent to the UN secretary general, the Russian president, and foreign and defense ministers.

Abkhazian Officials Stir up Anti-Georgian Sentiments

LD0909181194 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Rallies have been held recently in Gudauta Rayon protesting against the return of ethnic Georgians to Abkhazia. Various sources report that these rallies are being staged at the instructions of high-ranking Abkhaz officials. Speakers are chosen from the Russian-speaking population of Abkhazia. The separatists want to create an impression that the ethnic Russian population of Abkhazia is against the return of Georgian refugees.

Apart from this, the local authorities keep persecuting ethnic Georgians, mainly elderly, who have not left the conflict zone. According to reports, 35 inhabitants were exiled from Gudauta Rayon during August and early September. Most of them were women and elderly. Cases of murder have also been reported. The Abkhaz separatists attribute this to the aggravation of the criminal situation in the region and say that they are not able to cope with it.

All this occurs parallel to statements made at the mentioned rallies that the anniversary of the victory, that is, the capture of Sukhumi on 25 September 1993, should be celebrated without Georgians around.

Special Commission Investigates Genocide in Abkhazia

LD0909215994 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze today chaired a meeting of the commission studying materials on genocide and ethnic cleansing in Abkhazia. A large amount of materials exposing the plans of Abkhaz separatists to carry out ethnic cleansing has been gathered as a result of research carried out by appropriate offices. The material gathered certifies that genocide and ethnic cleansing did occur in Abkhazia and involved not only ethnic Georgians, but also representatives of other ethnic groups including ethnic Abkhazes. Everyone whose ideas were unacceptable for Ardzinba's regime was dealt with.

Further work of the Commission was planned at the meeting.

Article Analyzes 'Amorphous' Political Forces

AU1209114094 Tbilisi AKHALI TAOBA in Georgian 2 Sep 94 p 1

[Zaza Chkheidze article: "If Not Shevardnadze, Then Who? This Question Is Becoming Increasingly Topical."]

[Text] Georgia has been living without a parliament for almost two months now. This has been neither a great disadvantage nor advantage for the country that has existed in an autonomous regime for a long time now.

The authorities today are as amorphous as they used to be before. There is Shevardnadze and his team, which is divided into several parts. These are: the Union of [Georgia's] Citizens, Shevardnadze's apparatus, and the parliamentary majority. Relations between them are complicated. Deputies view the apparatus with envy as they can see that it is the source of power and a good life.

Certain deputies loyal to Shevardnadze who hold high-ranking posts are not being accepted into the Union of Citizens. For their part, citizens who are not deputies do not trust those parliamentarians who support Shevardnadze. All of them are seeking to earn "father's" goodwill and remove their rival from their path. Shevardnadze is managing to strike a balance between these interests and is building his own internal policy precisely on the team's lack of homogeneity.

The opposition is likewise amorphous, being divided into two fundamental parts: the parliamentary and non-parliamentary opposition. The most radical wing of the parliamentary opposition is made up of [Irakli] Tsereteli's party [National-Independence Party] and [Shota] Adamia's party [Merab Kostava Society] that unceasingly call for Shevardnadze's resignation. A moderate and cautious position is held by the United Republican Party [incorporating the Georgian Popular Front and Charter-91]. They are assiduously pointing out the authorities' shortcomings, but view Shevardnadze's departure as premature. The National-Democrats [under Giorgi Chanturia] hold the same moderate position. Meanwhile, the non-parliamentary opposition is significantly gaining in strength. It is composed in the main of the Round Table, which does not represent a strictly structured monolithic association. The parties within it are motivated by the unacceptability of the new authorities and the desire to restore the old ones. The number of people attending the street rallies in the extreme heat shows that the non-parliamentary opposition has many supporters and that their number is constantly increasing due to the feebleness of the authorities.

New street action in the fall could place the authorities in a difficult position. The time of violent methods is past. The authorities cannot neutralize the opposition by doing useful deeds for the people, because they simply do not know how to do such deeds. At the same time, the organizers of the street actions also have a serious failing, namely their lack of unity. They view the Supreme Council [under Gamsakhurdia] in different ways. The Round Table favors its restoration and the holding of new elections. Tsereteli does not share this view, while Adamia remains faithful to the idea of the convention [on the defense of Georgia's state independence signed by up to 40 opposition organizations]. Furthermore, the opposition cannot give a direct answer to the question "If not Shevardnadze, then who?" because it does not have a leader who can lay claim to Shevardnadze's post. Without providing an answer to this question, street actions will lose their purpose and will only be grist to the authorities' mill. The ruling circles are well aware of this and this is why they are not strongly countering the street actions. All the more so because Shevardnadze can muster far more support in Parliament than can be seen at first glance. The increased activity of the Round Table provides the head of state with that trump card that he used so well one year ago when Zviad Gamsakhurdia returned to Georgia. Against the background of fear, hatred, or other negative emotions felt toward Gamsakhurdia at that time, Shevardnadze was able to win almost the whole of Parliament over to his side. A part of the opposition toward Shevardnadze is worried by the increased activity of the Round Table and will again try to use the head of state against the Roundists. In any case, it will think about trying to do this itself. Meanwhile, however, the wishes of Shevardnadze and the opposition will again coincide. This opposition will probably try to make a deal with Shevardnadze and, in return for their support, he will agree to significant restrictions on his power; however, it is doubtful that this deal will be made even if the desire exists on both sides.

It is presumed that Parliament will resume work during the first half of September; it is said on 13 September. It will become known at the first session to what extent the authorities are prepared to preserve their positions and how strong and consistent the opposition is. The amorphous nature of the entire political spectrum leads us to believe that there will not be any radical changes in the very near future although the laws of life point to their inevitability.

Shevardnadze, UK MP on Future of Oil

LD1009180594 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 10 Sep 94

[Text] Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze today met Harold Elletson, a British member of parliament from the Conservative Party, and Martin (Herbert) a deputy director general of the joint Anglo-Georgian enterprise (GPKL) [expansion unknown].

Mr. Elletson said it was his third visit to Georgia and this time, in contrast with his previous visits, he clearly noticed signs of stability in the country. This should above all help develop private business in Georgia. He expressed the hope that many British businessmen would be interested in establishing ties with Georgia. This applies primarily to companies involved in oil production, which have a great interest in the Caucasus region.

It was said that tangible prospects for establishing ties between the British and Georgian parliaments had emerged at a meeting between Mr. Elletson and Nestan Kirtadze, a member of the Georgian parliament.

It was also said that both the vertical and horizontal methods of drilling will be used in prospecting [as heard] for oil in the Black Sea expected to start by the end of 1995.

At the end of the meeting, the head of state thanked the British guests for visiting Georgia.

Lithuania

State Department Reportedly Proposes 'To Hand Over' Baltics

LD0909143494 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] The United States is prepared to hand over the Baltic countries to the sphere of Russian interests and to agree that Europe ends at the Polish border. This is reported by the WASHINGTON POST, referring to a packet of proposals being prepared by the U.S. State Department prior to the upcoming visit by Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

This information is contained today in the newspaper RESPUBLIKA. The newspaper, referring to well-informed sources, states that a document of similar content is currently being considered at NATO headquarters.

The newspaper RESPUBLIKA asks in its commentary: Will the map of Europe at the end of the 20th century resemble maps issued 50 years ago, it is true, with some corrections, by those dividing Europe among themselves? Thus, World War II has ended, but the Cold War, says the newspaper in its editorial, has not yet ended. Not a single war has ended with a simple cessation of military actions. Usually, the victors meet to divide their conquests.

After the appearance of the article, in reply to the simple question whether it is true that the Baltic states are to be handed over to the sphere of Russian interests, Secretary of State Warren Christopher diplomatically avoided the question, recalling the visit of President Bill Clinton to Riga, and said that the Baltic states should not, are not, and will not be in anyone's sphere of interests. However, he did not deny the existence of the document quoted in the WASHINGTON POST.

RESPUBLIKA states further that reports appeared yesterday that the State Department has denied this scandalous report.

Republic Becoming Transit Country for Drug Traffickers

WS0909143994 Tallinn BNS in English 1235 GMT 9 Sep 94

[Text] Vilnius, Sep 09, BNS—Drug trafficking and sales started soaring in Lithuania as 189 drug-related crimes were exposed in the first half of this year, 64 offences more as compared with the same period last year. 302 criminal offences related to drug trafficking or sale were registered during 1993, putting the figure higher by 26.4 percent in comparison to the number of such crimes exposed in the previous year.

According to a source in the Ministry of the Interior, Lithuania is becoming a transit country in drug trafficking. Narcotic materials reach Lithuania from Afghanistan through Kirghistan and Russia, while Ukraine is another source of drugs brought to Lithuania. The anonymous official said that some of the drugs are transported from Lithuania to the Kaliningrad enclave and Germany. Meanwhile, contraband narcotic substances further trafficked via Latvia, Estonia and the Russian city St.Petersburg have Scandinavian countries as their final destination.

Over the first six months of this year Lithuanian law enforcement officials confiscated 525 kilograms of poppy stems and heads (208 kg over the same period last year), 1,059 grams of pure opium (none last year), 18,000 milligrams of opium extract (2 ml last year), 19.5 kg of marijuana (4.3 kg in the same period last year), 3.3 liters of ephedrine hydrochloride (none last year). Most drug-related crimes have been exposed in the towns of Vilnius, Klaipeda, Alytus, Panevezys and Siauliai. The small resort town Druskininkai is also in the list of the most drug-afflicted towns.

The Interior Ministry source said that the activities of structures for fight against illegal drug trafficking have been coordinated too poorly. Besides, Lithuania has not yet joined the 1988 UN convention on fight against illegal contraband of narcotic substances and psychotropic materials. According to official data provided by the Ministry of Health Care, 629 persons suffering from drug addiction were registered in Lithuania last year. However, the Interior Ministry representative put the realistic number of Lithuanian people using drugs at over 10,000.

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